MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 MARCH 1982

Israel

Dismissal of Mayors -- Central Command Commander Maj Gen Ori Or dismissed Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah and Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf from their posts, Jerusalem radio reported. The decision, which was authorized by Prime Minister Menahem Begin, was made against the background of their incitement activities, their nonrecognition of Professor Menahem Milson's Civilian Administration and their repeated attempts to disrupt public order in accordance with PLO directives, the radio said. The Civilian Administration has appointed two officers to replace Khalaf and Ash-Shak'ah, although the latter refused to accept the dismissal order and still regards himself as mayor, according to another radio report. Earlier, Professor Milson had said in a radio interview that the source of the riots must be overcome through a political and administrative effort to uproot PLO influence in the occupied territories.

West Bank, Gaza Disturbances -- A youth from a Janin refugee camp was shot dead after stabbing a policeman, Jerusalem radio reported. Another Arab youth died near Rafah after handling explosives, the radio said. According to Arab sources, a youth killed earlier in the day near Hebron was shot dead by civilians in an Israeli jeep, the radio noted. Disturbances continued in east Jerusalem and Judaea and Samaria, according to the radio, and the IDF forced businessmen in Gaza to open their shops.

Terrorists Captured -- IDF units captured three terrorists who had attempted to penetrate Israel, pursuing them and engaging them in a brief battle inside southern Lebanon north of kibbutz Hanita in western Galilee, ITIM reported. Terrorists have recently violated the cease-fire several times in this area, ITIM said.

Early Elections -- Prime Minister Begin told reporters that there is no alternative to early elections, Jerusalem radio reported. Justice Minister Moshe Nisim likewise opined that early elections will be unavoidable unless the government coalition broadens its base after 26 April, MA'ARIV reported. According to YED'IOT AHARONOT, Nisim met with the Agudat Yisrael chairman to discuss a proposal that if dissident National Religious Party MK Hayim Druckman cannot be persuaded to vote in favor of the budget, the government should submit a draft bill amending the Law of Return instead of proceeding with the budgetary law. Meanwhile, according to Jerusalem radio, the government passed the first reading of the budget by calling a snap vote when Druckman was absent from the Knesset. In remarks broadcast by the radio, Druckman indicated that he would switch his support back to the government only if it stops the Sinai withdrawal.

Yamit Dispute -- IDF soldiers were evacuated from Yamit after disputes with the inhabitants which began when the IDF occupied empty apartments to prevent opponents of the Sinai withdrawal from seizing them, Jerusalem radio reported.

Egypt

Arrest of Extremists -- Security authorities have arrested some extremists in Cairo who were conducting underground terrorist activities, MENA reported citing the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR. Those arrested belong to the Society of Repudiation and Renunciation, AL-MUSAWWAR noted.

Al-Baz, 'Ali on Talks With Israel -- Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz said that as a result of his meeting with Begin, Egypt and Israel are closer to solving the border demarcation problem, MENA reported. Al-Baz noted that during his talks in Israel he did not discuss the issue of President Husni Mubarak's visit to Jerusalem, but added that this problem is on the way to a solution. With regard to current events in the West Bank, he expressed the hope that the parties concerned will exercise self-restraint and concentrate on establishing relations between them as a means to achieve peace.

After a 5-hour Cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated in a question and answer session reported by MENA that as a result of his and Under Secretary al-Baz's visits to Israel, the two countries agreed on three principles: Israel will withdraw to the international borderline; recourse will be made to Article 7 of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty which provides for negotiations, compromise or arbitration; if there are disputed areas, a method for resolving the dispute according to Article 7 can be reached by the Joint Higher Committee before the withdrawal.

AL-AHRAM Commentary -- An AL-AHRAM commentary reported by MENA claimed that Israel is isolating the legitimate Palestinian inhabitants in a new ghetto at the very moment when the world is asking for rapport between the two sides. The paper gave credence to the belief that Israel wants to crush patriotic bastions in the West Bank, perhaps as a prelude to annexing the area, disrupting ties between these bastions and the external Palestinian forces and provoking the latter to intervene through Lebanese territory, thus providing Israel with a pretext for an attempt to eliminate them.

PLO

In a message to the UN secretary general broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat appealed to the United Nations to restrain Israeli aggression against Palestinians in the occupied areas.

Lebanon

Artillery and rocket exchanges began in the Al-Batrun and Al-Kurah areas on 24 March, continuing the next morning, Beirut radio reported. The radio said the clashes are between villages in the area, which is north of Beirut and south of Tripoli, but it did not mention whether Lebanese Front or Syrian forces are involved.

Syria

The opposition National Alliance issued a charter, broadcast by Baghdad's Voice of Arab Syria radio, calling for a multiparty parliamentary regime and outlining 16 principles agreed on by the alliance parties. The principles include a call for a relentless effort to wreck the present regime through popular armed struggle.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In the second phase of their current offensive, Iranian forces liberated "tens of kilometers," capturing and securing Reqabiyeh Gorge, Moshtaq Heights and other sensitive areas, according to Tehran radio reports. Over 2,500 new prisoners were captured, bringing the total since the offensive began to 8,000, including 60 colonels and majors, the radio claimed. It also said Iranian forces smashed counteroffensives near Dezlak Hill and 'Eyn Khosh, destroying 25 tanks and capturing much equipment intact. Iranian aircraft and antiaircraft units shot down 2 Iraqi planes, bringing the total of downed enemy aircraft to 8 in the last 3 days, and Iranian planes and helicopters bombed enemy positions and assembly points, the radio reported. In a statement broadcast by Tehran radio, the War Publicity Headquarters invited news media and international organizations to visit Iran in order to witness its victories.

President Saddam Husayn visited the southern sector and discussed the latest developments with commanders in the field, Baghdad radio noted. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by the radio reported fierce battles along the Shush-Dezful front, but added that despite new enemy reinforcements, thousands of Iranians have been killed, wounded or imprisoned. Iraqi air defense units shot down one enemy fighter plane and one helicopter, the communique added. A military spokesman cited by INA ridiculed Iran's victory claims and said Iraqi forces had imposed control over the Dezful-Shush battlefield. Iraqi forces seized 30 serviceable tanks, according to another INA report.

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 058 *25 March 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Jordanian-Palestinian Committee Issues Statement [VOP] A 1
PLO Committee Conducts Joint Meeting 25 Mar [VOP] A 1
Qaddumi Briefs Envoys on West Bank Situation [VOP] A 1
Klibi Says Committee on Lebanon Has Not Failed [AL-ITTIHAD 22 Mar] A 2
Arab League Secretary on U.S., French Positions [Rome ANSA] A 3

ARABIAN PENINSULA

QATAR

Cabinet Statement Condemns West Bank Measures C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

'UKAZ Urges Expulsion of Libya from Islamic Body [19 Mar] C 1
Libyan Interference in Lebanon Attacked C 2
Defense Minister Questioned on Al-Qadhdhafi [AL-MADINAH 21 Mar] C 2
Philippines' Marcos Meets with Muslim Officials C 3
Departs Jidda C 3

UAE

Foreign Minister Lauds West Bank Uprising C 3

PDRY

SUNA on Power Struggle Foreign Troop Presence C 4
Presidium Secretary Returns from YAR Visit C 4
Supreme Court Resumes Hearing Sabotage Trial C 4
ANA 24 Mar Report C 5
YSP Official Leaves for SRV Party Conference C 5

YAR

Cabinet Declares Support for Palestinians C 6
FRG Official Makes Statement, Departs C 6

EGYPT

Foreign Minister on Sinai Border Dispute D 1
Al-Baz Comments on Results of Israel Visit D 1
AL-AHRAM Questions Timing of West Bank Events [24 Mar] D 2
Mubarak Affirms No Policy Change After 25 Apr D 3
Hashim Holds Trade Talks With GDR Minister D 3

IRAQ

President Tours Southern Sector of Front E 1
Addition to Syrian Opposition Coalition Charter E 1

JORDAN

King Husayn Receives Jordanian-PLO Committee F 1
Foreign Ministry Statement on W. Bank Events F 1
Government Announces 1-Hour Work Stoppage F 2
Amman Daily on U.S. Policy, Palestinian Deaths [JORDAN TIMES 25 Mar] F 2

LEBANON

Sham'un Expresses Approval of Al-Jumayyil Speech G 1
Beirut Daily Reports Secret Habib Mission [AS-SAFIR 19 Mar] G 1
Military Receives U.S. Arms Delivery 23 Mar G 2
Villages Clash, Tensions Increase in North G 2

SYRIA

1-Hour Work Stoppage To Be Observed 25 Mar H 1
Iranian Majlis Member Meets With Official H 1
Bulgarian CP Delegation Concludes Visit, Departs H 1
Meeting With Al-Ahmar H 1
Departure Statement H 2
Yugoslav Minister Concludes Visit, Departs H 2
Turkish Deputy Premier Leaves Damascus 24 Mar H 3
Qaddurah Receives Soviet Deputy Trade Minister H 3
Foreign Ministry Makes Contacts on Aid to Golan H 3

ISRAEL

Begin Views Elections, Government Situation [MA'ARIV 25 Mar] I 1
Shamir Calls Knesset Vote 'Circumstantial' I 2
Labor Party Meets; Peres Comments on Situation I 3
Move Toward 'Parliamentary Revolution' Reported [MA'ARIV 24 Mar] I 3
Shapira Discusses Coalition Ouster With Nisim [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 25 Mar] I 4
Druckman To Continue Opposing Coalition I 4
IDF Commander Dismisses Nabulus, Ramallah Mayors I 5
IDF Officers To Replace I 5
Ash-Shak'ah Makes Statement I 5
Ramallah Mayor Reacts I 6
Bethehem Mayor Reacts I 6
W. Bank Mayors React I 6
Committee Criticize I 7
Ministry Protests Remarks by Egypt's UN Envoy I 7
Bethlehem Mayor Says His Life Threatened I 7
Prison Sentences Given to 17 W. Bank Youths I 8
ITIM Reports Public Order Violations in Gaza I 8
Sharon Believes West Bank Will Soon Be Calm I 8
More Disturbances in E. Jerusalem, W. Bank, Gaza I 9
Or Urges Settlers To Act Only in 'Self-Defense' I 9
Justice Minister Comments on W. Bank Policy I 9
Gaza Municipality Declares Sympathy Strike I 10
DAVAR: W. Bank Mayors Not Free of Blame [23 Mar] I 11
IDF Disperses Rafah Demonstrators; Curfew Imposed I 11
W. Bank Unrest Continues; Arab Youth Dies I 11
Further Details I 12
W. Bank Towns Stage Partial Commercial Strike I 12
Trial of 'Anabta Mayor Begins in Tulkarm I 12
Arab Youth Killed in Clash With Police 24 Mar I 12
Said Active in Terrorist Groups I 13
Disturbances Reported in Jerusalem; 15 Arrested I 13
Mayor Says Gaza Businessmen Forced To Open Shops I 13

W. Bank Mayors Meet W. European Consuls I 13
Gaza Youth Dies; E. Jerusalem Unrest Continues I 13
IDF Major Killed in Gaza Attack 25 Mar I 14
Milson Interviewed on West Bank Situation I 14
UNIFIL Spokesman Views Lebanon Overflights I 22

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Envoy's Claim of Libyan Presence in Ghana Denied Q 1
Al-'Ubaydi Receives Cypriot Foreign Minister Q 1
Nicosia Report Q 1

MOROCCO

Communique Issued on Tunisian Official's Visit Q 2
Mzali Departs 19 Mar Q 4

SUDAN

Mirghani Denounces Israeli Measures in West Bank Q 5
Minister Explains Paris Debt Rescheduling Q 5

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

COPWE Official Leaves for Hanoi Congress R 1

UGANDA

Obote Addresses Parliament on Policy Issues R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CHAD

OAU's Dawit: 30 Jun Deadline Not Imperative [AFP] S 1
Goukouni Returns to Ndjamena After 1-Month Trip [AFP] S 1
Faction Leader Idriss Dismissed From MPLT [AFP] S 2

CONGO

Group Claims Responsibility for Explosion 20 Mar [AFP] S 2

GABON

SFRY President Leaves Libreville for Lagos [AFP] S 2

ZAIRE

Mobutu Presides Over Central Committee Session S 3
Support Exhorted S 3

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Rawlings Says Wartime Economy To Be Instituted T 1
Second Consignment of Libyan Oil Arrives T 1
Atim Leaves for Tour of East Europe, Cuba T 1
Asamoah Meets With Vietnamese Delegation T 2

GUINEA

President Receives Egypt's Butrus Ghali 23 Mar T 2
MENA Report T 2

NIGERIA

Yugoslav President Arrives on 4-Day Visit T 3
Presidential Talks T 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Portuguese Finance Minister Arrives 23 Mar U 1
Committee Talks Open U 1
Jorge Meets With Antiapartheid Committee 23 Mar U 2
Meeting With SWAPO Leaders U 2
President dos Santos Receives Ambassadors U 2
Party Officials Leave for Hanoi Congress U 3
Companies Sign Oil Sharing Agreement 22 Mar U 3

LESOTHO

'Violent Exchange of Fire' Heard Near Barracks [AFP] U 3

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE ISSUES STATEMENT

JN242009 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Brothers, the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee has issued an initial statement on its first meeting. The text of the statement:

The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee held its 19th session in Amman yesterday morning. The session discussed the valiant upheaval of our people in the occupied homeland, which takes place to confirm their absolute rejection of the Israeli designs to impose the civilian administration and autonomy in accordance with the Camp David plot and to peddle the capitulatory settlements in order to liquidate the cause of Palestine. The committee also discussed recent developments following the Israeli occupation authorities' dissolution of the elected Al-Birah Municipal Council as well as the repressive and arbitrary measures that again have embodied the occupation forces' brutality, violence and terrorism and how these measures were faced by our people's masses in a comprehensive and mighty upheaval covering all parts of the occupied homeland.

The committee also reviewed events in light of the Jordanian martial law administrator's decision regarding the so-called village leagues which has incriminated the leagues' members and considered the leagues as part of a conspiracy to peddle the civilian administration. The committee valued the positive and strong effects of this decision.

The statement says the joint committee greets the occupied land people for their heroic stand and mighty confrontation of the Israeli conspiracies and the valuable sacrifices that have further entrenched their national unity. The statement also praises the militant Arab citizens in the Golan Heights, who are valiantly facing the conspiracy to Judaize and annex the Golan.

The joint committee praised the stands of the municipal and rural councils as well as the national organizations standing fast in the face of the Zionist enemy's pressures. The joint committee reconfirmed that these councils which represent the peoples will not yield to pressures and will continue to shoulder their duties from their legitimate positions to foil the Israeli schemes.

The joint committee continues to follow the militant developments of our masses' struggle in the occupied homeland and pledged to continue to back their struggle, steadfastness and attachment to the homeland's soil and their national legitimate rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination and establishment of the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

The committee also studied appropriate means to further bolster national steadfastness under all circumstances and regardless of all the obstacles.

PLO COMMITTEE CONDUCTS JOINT MEETING 25 MAR

NC251113 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that the PLO Executive Committee and the secretaries general of the various groups of the Palestinian revolution are now holding a joint meeting to discuss latest developments in the occupied territory.

QADDUMI BRIEFS ENVOYS ON WEST BANK SITUATION

NC241508 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] head of the PLO Political Department, received in Beirut the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions accredited to Lebanon.

During the meeting, at PLO Political Department headquarters at noon today, a review was made of the explosive situation in the occupied homeland and the Zionist terrorist practices against our masses.

Brother Abu al-Lutf also briefed the Arab ambassadors on the developments of our masses' uprising since the closure of Bir Zayt University. He also spoke at length about the Zionist expansionist policy represented by colonization, Judaization and annexation. Abu al-Lutf also pointed to the splendid uprising against Zionist terrorism and the current moves being made at the United Nations, the Security Council, the Islamic Congress, the Nonaligned Movement, the committee of 20, the UN Human Rights Commission and the OAU.

Brother Abu al-Lutf asked the Arab ambassadors to convey the situation to their respective governments and to have them declare their solidarity with and support for our masses in their uprising. The Arab ambassadors hailed the overwhelming uprising in the occupied homeland.

KLIBI SAYS COMMITTEE ON LEBANON HAS NOT FAILED

GF221911 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 22 Mar 82

['Imad Judiyah dispatch from Beirut]

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has warned of the seriousness of the present Arab situation and has called for joining efforts and achieving Arab solidarity to confront the challenges of the coming stage. He has warned that Israel is continuing its hostile and expansionist plans in the region and affirmed that the Arab Followup Committee is continuing its efforts. He has stated that those who claim the committee has failed are the ones who are hindering its efforts. This came in an exclusive statement made by Klibi to AL-ITTIHAD prior to his departure from Beirut for Baghdad and other Arab capitals.

Referring to tasks of the Arab Followup Committee, Klibi said: In brief I say that the Arab Followup Committee has never embarked on tasks with the intention of failing. It knows that its efforts have not been futile and hence the achievement of an overall solution to the Lebanese crisis requires much work from it. Therefore, I declare openly to all that the committee is continuing its efforts and will never stop carrying out its national [qawmiyah] duties toward Lebanon. In my view those who claim that the Followup Committee has failed and spread rumors on the end of its task are themselves hindering and obstructing its efforts.

Referring to the fears that precede presidential elections in Lebanon, Klibi said: I don't know why there is this fear of the months preceding the presidential election in Lebanon. The fact that the Followup Committee has not met is not related to what others fear -- the occurrence of serious security events in the country before the presidential campaign. The committee has not held its two scheduled meetings because its members needed to study a number of outstanding issues, expecially as there have been grave political developments that required them to consult with their countries to confront the stage following the annexation of the Golan Heights. Therefore, the fact that the committee did not meet does not at all mean that it has failed in its task. The coming days will bring good results in this regard.

With regard to his meetings with Lebanese officials, Klibi said to AL-ITTIHAD: We visit Lebanon from time to time in order to remain in constant contact with its officials. During these visits I felt that our Lebanese brothers wanted the Followup Committee to continue with its tasks. I assured them that I would exert every effort to revive the committee's work. As I previously said I hope the coming days will witness many good surprises in this regard.

With regard to his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, which he considered useful and positive, Klibi said: My meeting with Yasir 'Arafat was undoubtedly useful, especially since the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee is aware and understands the Lebanese crisis. He in turn expressed the Palestinian resistance's willingness to remove all that is likely to hinder the efforts of the Followup Committee. He also affirmed that the resistance is committed to maintaining Lebanon's security as well as its own.

With regard to the southern Lebanon issue, Klibi said: Mr Yasir 'Arafat assured me the resistance is committed to the ceasefire because it is concerned for the security of southern Lebanon. From my side I openly say that southern Lebanon, like all other Arab territories surrounding the Zionist entity, is subject to direct threats from Israel at all times. Therefore, we are serious in our efforts to adopt a strategy in the near future because the present stage requires us to work quickly and exert maximum efforts to confront it.

The Arab League secretary general expressed his concern over an Israeli move to attack southern Lebanon and said: Israel is continuing to execute its hostile and expansionist plans in the region. It does what it can to bolster its racist entity at the expense of the security and sovereignty of the Arab nation.

In his statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Klibi warned of the new worrisom political events in the region and called on Arabs to join efforts and work to establish Arab solidarity to confront the challenges of the coming stage. In his opinion this requires everyone to mobilize political, military, economic and information capabilities in the service of the higher national interest to become ready for the decisive plan that Israel may surprise us with.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY ON U.S., FRENCH POSITIONS

AU232106 Rome ANSA in English 1916 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Rome, 23 Mar (ANSA) -- "America is wrong if it thinks that the only friend it has in the Middle East is Israel", Arab League Secretary Chedli Klibi said in an interview in Tunis which was published today by the Italian daily "LA STAMPA".

Klibi said that all of the Arab peoples would like nothing better than to cooperate with the United States, in full confidence and dignity, as long as America keeps to its principles of liberty and justice. He also said that no one wanted to destroy the Jewish state and that the supposed Arab threat to Israel's existence was part of a strategem to win world sympathy for the Israeli cause.

Klibi, 57, has been head of the Arab League since 1969.

In the interview he criticized the positions taken by French President Francois Mitterrand when he addressed the Knesset (Israeli parliament) early this month. Mitterrand insisted on the responsibilities of all sides in the Mideast to find a solution to the conflict without any outside interference, Klibi continued. This, he said, was not in keeping with the dimensions of the Mideast crisis and the international decisions taken with regard to that area of the world.

Without external pressure — lacking a precise role taken by Europe — Israel would only be encouraged to pursue its present policies, he said. The result would eventually be a war that would compromise world peace and security, he concluded.

QATAR

CABINET STATEMENT CONDEMNS WEST BANK MEASURES

GF241805 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani chaired the ordinary meeting of the Cabinet at Ad-Dawahah Palace this morning. At the start of the meeting, the Cabinet reviewed reports on the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the bravery of Arab citizens in challenging and resisting Israeli occupation forces. The Cabinet decided to issue the following statement:

While following proudly reports on the uprising of Arab brothers in the occupied Arab territory and their bravery in resisting and challenging Israeli occupation forces, the State of Qatar expresses its denunciation and strong condemnation of the suppressive and barbaric practices these fascist forces are carrying out against unarmed citizens in order to impose Israeli hegemony on them and confirm the occupation of their lands.

The statement adds: The oppression and torture Israel is carrying out against the Arab Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza is nothing but a new round in the chain of its criminal and expansionist plan to annex these territories after having annexed the Syrian Golan Heights, thus violating the most elementary principles of international law and disregarding the entire world's opposition and condemnation of these measures.

The statement adds: The international community, which requires no additional proof of Israel's trespassing and hostile and racist policy against the Arab peoples, is requested more than ever before to prove its ability to put an end to Israel's arrogance, contentiousness and savagery, which threaten peace and stability not only in the Middle East but throughout the world. As it salutes the heroic steadfastness of the Arab citizens in the occupied territories, the State of Qatar reaffirms its support for the fraternal Arab Palestinian people in their confrontation with the colonial plots of the Zionist enemy and in their just struggle to liberate their usurped land and regain their independence.

The cabinet also reviewed the topics listed on its agenda and adopted the following decisions:

1. To take the necessary measures to pay Qatar's share for the year 1982 in: A) the budget of the UN General Assembly; B) the Arab center for security studies and training in Riyadh.

2. To approve the decision adopted by the Gulf Air board of chairmen in its meeting held in Abu Dhabi on 9 March 1982 on the necessity of immediate payment of the shares of the member states who share the firm's capital.

3. To participate in a number of Arab and international conferences.

SAUDI ARABIA

'UKAZ URGES EXPULSION OF LIBYA FROM ISLAMIC BODY

PM231451 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 19 Mar 82 p 1

['UKAZ Beirut correspondent's report: "Expulsion of Libyan Regime From Islamic Conference Organization and OAU Imminent"]

[Text] According to informed sources, several Islamic bodies and a large number of Islamic states are now considering the question of expelling Al-Qadhdhafi's regime from the Islamic Conference Organization for undermining the divine values.

Sources say that this punishment should be meted out to Al-Qadhdhafi and his regime but that links with the Libyan Arab Muslim people should be maintained and even strengthened.

'UKAZ has learned that a number of African Muslim states are currently considering suspending Libya's OAU membership, now that the Libyan colonel's subversive role in Africa has been confirmed.

These states intend to ask the OAU not to hold the next African summit conference in Tripoli.

LIBYAN INTERFERENCE IN LEBANON ATTACKED

LD232058 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Reports from Beirut and Tripoli reveal that the Libyan colonel, who is anxious to shake Arab solidarity and split the ranks of the Arab nation, has been trying hard for some time to fan sectarian differences in Lebanon and has been spending huge sums of money to fan the flames of sedition there. These reports say that, at a time when constant contacts are taking place to put an end to these clashes, observers believe Al-Qadhdhafi's continuing support for conflicting groups in Lebanon is preventing these contacts from succeeding. Clashes are expected to be renewed.

Observers in Beirut believe Al-Qadhdhafi is doing his utmost to create circumstances Israel can exploit to interfere in Lebanon, by way of supporting the tension-creating elements. He aims to obstruct the efforts of the Arab Follow-up Committee and those of international mediation to restore stability to Lebanon. These observers believe Al-Qadhdhafi is exploiting the Lebanese arena in order to settle accounts through his agents. In light of this, observers believe it is imperative that the Arab Follow-up Committee should hold its postponed meeting now, in order to prevent Al-Qadhdhafi from continuing to fish in troubled waters in the Lebanese arena.

Inside Libya, al-Qadhdhafi has trifled with everything. He has trifled with the freedom of Libyan citizens, education, the future of youths, the sanctity of homes, the authority of the people, Islam, the prophet's tradition, the ideological heritage of the Libyan people and their democratic establishments. This is because Al-Qadhdhafi is far removed from democracy. He is a despotic and dictatorial ruler.

DEFENSE MINISTER QUESTIONED ON AL-QADHDHAFI

GF250613 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 21 Mar 82 p 1

[Awad al-Qahtani dispatch from Tabuk]

[Excerpts] Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has said that he has proposed a unified GCC security agreement that will be studied at the interior ministers' meeting scheduled to be held in October.

Answering a question on Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's repeated abuses, distortion of the holy book and attack against the kingdom and some Arab and Islamic countries, his highness has stated: Senior ulema and the Saudi and international press have replied to Al-Qadhdhafi's actions. It is not possible for me to tell my view on this issue now.

On the dispatch of a Libyan unit of 5,000 soldiers to Al-Biqa' plain in southern Lebanon, His Highness Prince Sultan has said: This issue concerns the Lebanese people themselves.

Concluding his statement made to AL-MADINAH in Tabuk on 19 March, Prince Sultan addressed armed forces personnel in the northern region and called on almighty God to preserve their religion and security. He asked them to be good and to carry out their duties and responsibilities. He also asked them to fear God.

PHILIPPINES' MARCOS MEETS WITH MUSLIM OFFICIALS

LD241330 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0845 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Jidda, 24 Mar (SPA) -- His Excellency President Ferdinand Marcos met this morning with Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. After the meeting, Chatti told SPA that the talks he had with the Philippine president concentrated on the conditions of Muslims in the southern Philippines. Implementation of the Tripoli agreement and closing the gap between the Philippine Government and the Moro front were also discussed. He added that President Marcos manifested his country's readiness for the ICO to continue its efforts to find a solution to this problem.

The Philippine president also met with Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali al-Harakan, secretary general of the Islamic World League. The meeting was attended by Shaykh 'Ali Mukhtar, assistant secretary general of the World Higher Council of Mosques.

After the meeting today 'Al-Harakan told SPA that the talks with President Marcos dealt with the affairs of the Muslims in the Philippines and what the League could do to spread the Islamic call, train missionaries, hold training courses and open offices for the League. Al-Harakan stressed that the president responded to all these requests and the League will send a delegation to Manila to complete the subjects discussed with him.

Departs Jidda

LD242225 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Jidda 24 Mar (SPA) -- Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos and his accompanying delegation left Jidda at 1045 this evening after an official 4-day visit to the kingdom.

UAE

FOREIGN MINISTER LAUDS WEST BANK UPRISING

GF251100 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The UAE has lauded the popular uprising the occupied Arab territories are witnessing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and has strongly condemned the Zionist enemy's illegitimate measures to disband the Al-Birah Municipal Council and the decision to dismiss Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shaka'h and Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf from their posts.

In a statement to WAM today, UAE Foreign Affairs Minister Rashid 'Abdallah praised the courageous resistance the struggling Palestinian people are waging against the tyrannical Zionist occupation in the occupied territories. He called on the Security Council to adopt a counterresolution against the occupying authorities and to side with justice and right. He also called on all Arab countries to unite in supporting and aiding the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories and to give all possible aid to enable them to continue to resist the occupation which is trying to impose the claimed autonomy rule.

PDRY

SUNA ON POWER STRUGGLE FOREIGN TROOP PRESENCE

JN231130 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1036 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Beirut, 23 Mar (SUNA) -- Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut have said that the PDRY is currently the scene of an acute power struggle between chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his defense minister. In addition, these sources have affirmed that 1,500 Soviet troops and 4,000 Cuban troops are currently stationed in the PDRY. Also, some 1,000 GDR experts are training police and armed forces personnel.

PRESIDIUM SECRETARY RETURNS FROM YAR VISIT

EA242130 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Summary] 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Ghanim, candidate member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, returned to Aden from San'a' today after delivering a message from Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the progress of the Aden agreement signed by the two presidents. 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Ghanim has a message for Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in this connection.

SUPREME COURT RESUMES HEARING SABOTAGE TRIAL

EA231916 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The Supreme Court resumed its hearing of the trial of the sabotage gang this morning with Brother Najob 'Abd ar-Rahman Shamiri presiding. The course went into recess 2 weeks ago to enable the prosecution and defense counsel to prepare their arguments.

The 12 defendants appeared before the court today. There was also another defendant, Salih 'Ali al-Kazimi, who was recently arrested by the security organs with help from the people. The state prosecutor asked that the case of Salih 'Ali al-Kazimi be included with the case of the other 12 accused persons on trial. He said there are links between the two cases, and the accused was a member of the sabotage gang. He received training on explosives along with the defendants 'Abduh 'Ali Ahmad, Hammam Hadi Ba Awdah and Sa'id Yislam Ba Awdah. A lawyer has been chosen to defend the accused with his consent.

After a recess the court resumed the session and the president of the court read the charge to the accused, namely of working with a group hostile to Democratic Yemen. He asked him to deliver his statements and make his admissions regarding the charge. The president of the court also read the confession of the accused, in which he admitted joining the mercenaries and receiving training in the use of explosives, like the other 12 sabotage gang members, from American and British experts. He also had a map of Aden that had black dots on it to indicate oil storage tanks.

The accused returned to the republic in the middle of 1981. He then left the republic to continue his training and returned in January 1982, carrying with him the necessary instructions. He was asked to carry a message to the accused, Sa'id al-Hadir Ba Humayl. His mission was to transport and store the explosives for eventual delivery to persons who were to blow up the oil storage tanks.

The president of the court then adjourned the session. The court will sit again tomorrow morning.

ANA 24 Mar Report

LD241736 Aden ANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Aden 24 Mar (ANA) -- The republic's Supreme Court, chaired by Brother Najib 'Abd ar-Rahman Shamiri, continued the trial of the members of the gang of saboteurs who were recently arrested and who were trying to do harm to the country's economic and [word indistinct] establishments and also trying to disturb the country's security. At its 18th session this morning, the 13th defendant, Salih 'Ali Salim al-Kazimi, was questioned by the president of the court, the public prosecuter and the (?defense). The defendant was arrested recently, and his case was added to those of the other members of the gang after his appearance in court yesterday.

At the beginning of the session the president of the court reviewed the confessions made by defendants Abbas al-Sabihi, Mahdi Sa'id Baudah and Sa'id al-Khudr Bahmil, regarding their connection with the defendant and his subversive activity.

In his replies to the questions put to him, defendant Al-Kazmii admitted that he belonged to the subversive group, that he met agents abroad and that along with defendants Mahdi Sa'id Baudah, Abbas as-Sabihi and Sa'id (Salim) Baudah, he received one week's training by foreign experts on maps of Aden showing fuel depots, how to store explosives and how to keep a lookout and be cautious. The defendant explained that after this course he was asked to go to Aden in order to become acquainted with the members of the gang inside the country.

The defendant gave fresh details about the defendant Sa'id al-Khudr Bahmil, details that had not been mentioned during his trial. He pointed out that he was asked to meet Sa'id al-Khudr upon arrival in Aden, give him a letter from the foreign agents and (?ask him) to introduce him to some members of the gang. The defendant said he had delivered the letter to Bahmil when he returned home in December 1981 and made another appointment to get acquainted with him. He returned to him in early February, at which time they agreed to meet at Lahj Province in order to get acquainted with the person who would deliver the explosives to him. He also explained that he asked to meet another person, Husni al-Shaykh Osnan, on two occasions: 25 December 1981 and 15 January 1982. He was given a description of the person and the password.

The session was adjourned until tomorrow morning, when questioning of the defendant will continue.

YSP OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR SRV PARTY CONFERENCE

EA232210 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Shayi Hadi, candidate member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme Committee for Party Control, has left for Hanoi at the head of a party delegation to participate in the fifth conference of the Vietnamese Communist Party, which begins on 27 March.

In a press statement to the Aden News Agency upon his departure this morning, he said the YSP's participation in the work of this conference comes at a time when bilateral relations are witnessing continuing development and the bonds of friendship and militant solidarity are being consolidated in the joint struggle against imperialism and reaction and for social progress, peace and democracy.

He pointed out that the conference is significant, because it is being convened under local and international circumstances characterized by difficulty and complication due to the adventurous policy of American imperialism.

He also pointed out that he is carrying the greetings of brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council.

YAR

CABINET DECLARES SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

JN241555 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The Cabinet met at 0900 today under Prime Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani. After reviewing the decisions of its two previous sessions — the ordinary and extraordinary sessions -- the cabinet stood in honor of the heroic steadfastness of our Arab Palestinian people inside the occupied Palestinian territory and their confrontation of the Israeli enemy and all its oppressive, terrorist and repressive practices by which it aims to undermine our Palestinian people and impose the illusion of self-rule linked to the conspiratorial Camp David accords.

The cabinet called on world public and international organizations to adopt a fair, just and humane stand in support of the sons of our Palestinian people inside occupied Palestine in their heroic resistance to the usurper enemy to achieve all their legitimate rights.

The cabinet urged all Arab brothers to adopt a quick stand to reinforce the steadfastness of the Palestinian people, support their just revolution and champion their legitimate right to their freedom, determine their destiny and establish their own national state on the sacred Palestinian soil.

FRG OFFICIAL MAKES STATEMENT, DEPARTS

JN211445 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Dr (Brucher Korosieh), minister of state and member of the FRG Bundestag, and the accompanying delegation left San'a' today following a 3-day visit to the republic during which he delivered a written message to Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, from Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

In a statement to SABA' News Agency, Dr (Korosieh) said that he held talks with the officials. These talks, which were on all levels, dealt with the means of promoting bilateral economic and technical cooperation. He asserted that bilateral relations will, in the future, witness great development in all fields through the exchange of visits and technical expertise. He pointed out that he invited Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, on behalf of his German counterpart, to visit the FRG, asserting that this visit will have positive results in bolstering bilateral relations.

Concluding his statement, Dr (Korosieh) expressed his thanks for the warm welcome accorded him and the accompanying delegation during their visit. He also expressed his admiration for the YAR's progress in the field of construction.

The German official was seen off by Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr and Dr Wolf Schilling, FRG ambassador in San'a'.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON SINAI BORDER DISPUTE

NC241720 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1539 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) -- The Cabinet met this morning under Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din to discuss foreign, domestic, economic and supply policies.

Following the 5-hour meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated that, concerning foreign policy, the Cabinet reviewed the border problem between Egypt and Israel,what is taking place in the West Bank and Gaza sector and the Egyptian diplomatic move in Africa to preserve the OAU.

On the border problem, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that as a result of the Egyptian delegation's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin last week and Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary and Director of the President's Office for Foreign Affairs Dr Usamah al-Baz's visit, during which he conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak to Menahem Begin, several principles were agreed upon between the two countries. The first principle is that Israel withdraw to the Egyptian borderline. The second principle is that recourse be made to Article 7 of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, which provides for negotiations, compromise or arbitration. The third principle is that, if there is a disputed area, we can -- during the remaining period before the withdrawal and through meetings of the higher committee for withdrawal -- reach a means of resolving this dispute within the framework of Article 7.

Replying to a question as to whether there are new proposals on the Tabah area, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: As I have already stated, Article 7 of the peace agreement must be applied. Within the framework of this article, we can resolve the disputes before or after the withdrawal.

Replying to another question as to what would happen if the dispute on this area persists after the withdrawal, 'Ali said that it can remain a disputed area. This does not affect the Israeli withdrawal to the borderline. This is one thing. Another thing is that the two states have a sincere intention to resolve this dispute as soon as possible.

Asked about Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's forthcoming visit to Egypt, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said an agreement has been reached with Sharon to come to Egypt at a date to be agreed upon -- either at the end of this month or at the beginning of next month -- in order to discuss the problem and the method of resolving it and to reach an agreement on it. It is necessary that the two sides agree on the third party in the event of arbitration or on the elements of arbitration.

AL-BAZ COMMENTS ON RESULTS OF ISRAEL VISIT

NC241214 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din in Al-'Urubah Palace today. The meeting was attended by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and chief of the Presidential Bureau for Political Affairs.

After the 1-hour meeting, Dr al-Baz was asked what his visit to Israel had achieved. He said: I have returned to Cairo after visiting Israel where I met with Prime Minister Begin for 2 hours, at which time I conveyed to him a message from President Mubarak. The outcome of the meeting -- after Begin acquainted himself with the president's message -- was that we are now more convinced that all pending problems will be settled within a few days.

Asked if these problems would be resolved before the Israeli withdrawal, he said: I hope so.

Asked what President Mubarak meant at yesterday's meeting when he noted that some were trying to harm Egypt-U.S. relations, Al-Baz said: There are no specific persons or individuals, but certain comments here and there have given such impressions or hints. What is important is the stable political line we are following with the United States.

Asked whether he meant what has been published in the New York TIMES and other articles, he said: We do not point to specific articles, but it is a general impression created by specific writings.

Asked if he could disclose who created such an atmosphere, Al-Baz said: I cannot.

Asked if creating such an atmosphere was meant to affect the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, Al-Baz said: No, absolutely not. for us and Israel, 25 April is the set date. We hope that the withdrawal will be carried out smoothly.

Asked about his statement that his meeting with Prime Minister Begin was useful and whether this meant that a solution of the Rafah and Tabah problem had been reached, Al-Baz said: We are now closer to resolving the problems more than we were before this meeting.

Asked if he discussed the Jerusalem question and President Mubarak's visit to Israel, Al-Baz said: This subject was not discussed. However, I can say that these problems are on the way to a solution.

Asked to comment on the current events in the West Bank, Al-Baz said: We hope the Israeli Government will maintain self-restraint. We believe that the best thing for all parties is to concentrate on the establishment of relations between them as a way of contributing toward the achievement of peace.

Asked whether he believed this was possible despite the current violence in the West Bank, Al-Baz said: We hope that the parties concerned will maintain self-restraint. We do not want the situation there to become exacerbated; we believe we have a better opportunity to achieve peace if the severity of this tension is reduced instaed of exacerbated.

AL-AHRAM QUESTIONS TIMING OF WEST BANK EVENTS

NC242358 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) -- In a commentary to be published in its Thursday edition, the newspaper AL-AHRAM affirms that the incidents now occurring in the West Bank are nothing but a popular furor that has its reasons and that has climaxed acts of internal provocations that have been going on for a long time. Even worse, perhaps this furor was calculated to explode at this very time.

The paper says that it is no coincidence that while the international call is intensifying -- a call that Israel reach an amicable understanding with the Palestinians -- the method of repression has emerged to ensure that the gap continues to exist so that it will attest to, and corroborate, the "inevitability" of the occupation.

Al-AHRAM adds that while the world is asking for a rapport between the two sides, a military blockade is being set up to isolate the legitimate Palestinian residents in a new ghetto. The paper continues that at a time when the states of the world are appealing to Israel -- just as Egypt has been since 1978 -- to extend bridges of confidence to the Palestinian Arabs, Israel has suddenly broken off the bridges -- even the bridges with Jordan.

AL-AHRAM says that there is a justification for the belief that Israel wants to move its battle with the Palestinians to the very heart of the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It wants to do this to finally crush the internal patriotic bastions through violent "security" measures. The paper adds that these measures are perhaps a prelude to annexation, to disrupting the ties between these bastions and external Palestinian forces and to drawing these forces to intervention through the familiar skirmishes within Lebanese territory so that Israel can use this intervention as a pretext for striking at external Palestinian forces in a final attempt to eliminate them.

The paper speculates that, despite all these things, the Begin government might need domestic support, a matter by which the Begin government is taking the risk of exposing itself to confidence-withdrawal measures.

MUBARAK AFFIRMS NO POLICY CHANGE AFTER 25 APR

NC240700 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Mar 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Regarding the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement, AL-AHRAM refers to the interview President Husni Mubarak granted to the New York TIMES in which he affirmed that he is still extremely optimistic regarding the fulfillment of the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement and that no change will take place in Egyptian policy after the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai on 25 April. AL-AHRAM also notes President Mubarak's affirmation that Egypt wishes to restore relations with the Arab states, but that this will not take place at the expense of its relations with Israel and Egypt will not accept the imposition of conditions on it in this regard.

HASHIM HOLDS TRADE TALKS WITH GDR MINISTER

NC232022 Cairo MENA in English 1935 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA) -- Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Fu'ad Hashim conferred today with the East German minister of heavy industries on means of cementing economic ties and increasing the volume of trade exchange between the two countries.

They also discussed means of increasing Egyptian exports to East Germany which amounted to 14.7 million Egyptian pounds for last year. The main Egyptian exports are cotton and cotton textiles.

Egypt's imports from East Germany within the same period totalled 28.9 million. The main imports are [words indistinct] instruments.

The visiting minister extended an invitation to Dr Hashim to visit East Germany to attend the Leipzig fair. He is currently on a visit to Egypt to attend the 15th Cairo international fair.

PRESIDENT TOURS SOUTHERN SECTOR OF FRONT

JN251210 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, visited the southern sector of the battlefront and held a series of meetings with the commanders of the military units in the sector. They discussed the latest military developments in their sector. He was also briefed in detail on our heroic fighters' combat preparations to defeat the collapsing remnants of the Persian enemy. He gave valuable directives regarding a number of mobilization and combat affairs.

The president toured the sector and visited the positions of the heroic fighters while they were waging one of the biggest epics of heroism, during which they killed or wounded thousands of enemy personnel and destroyed enemy morale and armor in the sector.

Bidding farewell to a number of military units before they left for battle, the president greeted our fighters' tremendous courage and expressed his and the Iraqi people's pride in their splendid fighting in which they defeated the enemy's remnants. Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister, and the army's chief of staff attended part of the president's meetings.

ADDITION TO SYRIAN OPPOSITION COALITION CHARTER

Within the item entitled "Syrian Opposition Coalition Publishes Charter," published in the 24 March Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT on page E 3, the initial paragraph was omitted. The item should begin as follows:

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Great adversities bring out great determination, and great loyalty reduces differences. Is there anything more sublime than the Syrian cause — ideology, people and land — that can unify forces? Glorious and independent Syria has called on its sons to perform their duties, safeguard their values and carry out the noble mission. All representatives of the Syrian people have reached agreement through serious dialogue, motivated by high hopes and a sense of fateful responsibility. They have brought to fruition a charter under the name of the National Alliance of the Syrian People. Those who brought it to fruition are leaders of the political and popular trends and organizations in Syria, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood group, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Islamic Front, the Arab socialists, the Nasirites and independent political figures who represent various national trends in the Syrian arena. The following is the charter that organizes and regulates this alliance for the present and the future.

KING HUSAYN RECEIVES JORDANIAN-PLO COMMITTEE

JN241023 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met this evening with members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee at the Royal Hashemite Court. He was briefed on the committee's work, achievements and positive results.

His majesty praised our kinfolk's honorable and courageous stand in the occupied territory against the hostile plans aimed at their continued existence on their land. He asserted Jordan's support for the committee's efforts to back our kinfolk, efforts that have led to positive results on all levels.

His majesty said: Everything we see, feel and experience increases our faith and our determination to back our kinfold with all our resources and capabilities. What we see in this courageous and brave stand against the enemy practices reminds us of the determined and courageous stand in the Al-Karamah battle. Just as Al-Karamah was a turning point, we hope that this uprising will be another turning point, God willing.

Hamid Abu Sittah, head of the Palestinian side in the joint committee praised His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab views on the Palestine question and the fruitful and constructive cooperation between the two sides. He said: Cooperation between your government and the PLO is positive, effective and responsible. This was established during our previous joint meetings.

Abu Sittah affirmed that the Jordanian Government's decision with regard to the village league has had a strong effect.

Khalil al-Wazir then spoke. He expressed the Palestinian side's pleasure at meeting with His Majesty King Husayn and commended the Jordanian Government's decision concerning the village leagues.

The meeting was attended by Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON W. BANK EVENTS

JN231404 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has informed the Arab League's Secretariat General of the serious and dangerous situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, so the latter can in turn brief the fraternal Arabs on it in light of the Israeli occupation authorities' measures against our kinfolks who are continuing their resistance of the occupation in an epic manner despite the escalating repression and persecution.

The Foreign Ministry asserted that the Israeli measures are intended to end the kinfolk's resistance and steadfastness in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to strip them of their will as a prelude to imposing civilian administration on them. They hope to deceive the world into believing that the occupation has come to an end and, consequently, annex the occupied territories in accordance with a well-studied plan being carefully carried out by Israel.

Therefore, because of this very dangerous situation and out of commitment toward the national and fateful battle with the Zionist enemy, the Foreign Ministry underlined the importance of adopting an urgent, unified and efficient stance to back the kinfolk's steadfastness and bolster their resistance to foil Israel's designs by offering all possible capabilities and means as well as other tangible aid. This will constitute the most fruitful and constructive reply to the Israeli occupation authorities.

The Foreign Ministry urged the fraternal Arabs to make practical recommendations that may prevent the Israeli enemy from dragging the Arab nation into a maze that will exhaust all its potential and power and enable the enemy to carry out all its designs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES 1-HOUR WORK STOPPAGE

JN241558 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Amman, 24 Mar (PETRA) -- An official spokesman has stated the following: The Jordanian Government announces that a 1-hour work stoppage will take place in all public and private departments throughout the kingdom from 1000 tomorrow morning, 25 March 1982, until 1100 in solidarity with the stand of steadfastness and confrontation of our kinfolk in the occupied territories against the Zionist occupation authorities, their schemes of expansion, their repressive measures and their aggressions against the dignity of the Arab individual and his basic rights, out of sympathy for all the fathers and mothers whose children were attacked by the soldiers of occupation.

Greetings to all men, women and youths in all walks of life who are confronting occupation and its institutions and struggling for their freedom and national identity.

AMMAN DAILY ON U.S. POLICY, PALESTINIAN DEATHS

JN251215 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Mar 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Peace and Death"]

[Text] There is something macabre about seeing another Palestinian youth shot dead by Israeli gunfire in the occupied West Bank while United States Secretary of State Alexander Haig says in Washington that he is confident the Camp David "peace process" will continue.

The absurdity of this juxtaposition of words and deeds is not new. The United States has consistently reverted to incoherence and insensitivity in the face of Israeli killings of Palestinians, whether in the occupied territories, in southern Lebanon or among Palestinian diplomats abroad. It is therefore no surprise to watch this latest American performance. The American Government is moving ahead to hold the next round of the Egyptian-Israeli "autonomy" talks in Washington, making believe that no Palestinians are being killed by Israeli bullets in the West Bank, making believe that autonomy will suddenly be accepted by the Palestinians after it has been resoundly rejected many times over.

We should all move beyond the point of amazement at the actions of the United States Government. We are, perhaps, on the threshold of scientific history. We may well have a situation here where a new form of human being is evolving, a blend between fact and fiction, reality and unreality, truth and falsehood. Mr. Haig cannot be serious in what he says. But he is serious. So is the entire political structure of the United States that gives Israel the money and armaments it needs to kill Palestinians. The explanation for such intellectual barbarism is not readily found. "Peace process" and death are incompatible. Mr. Haig, the soldier should know that.

SHAM'UN EXPRESSES APPROVAL OF AL-JUMAYYIL SPEECH

NC241415 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpts] At today's meeting, the Lebanese Front discussed the recent speech by Lebanese Forces Commander Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil.

[Former] President Camille Sham'un said: There have been many interpretations of Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil's speech, and questions were raised dealing with the Lebanese Front's stand on the speech. Here I must say that the Lebanese Front, of which Shaykh Bashir is a member, approves of the speech. The Lebanese Front believes that the Lebanese forces commander was aiming at the interest of the Lebanese as a whole, with a view to achieving unity without racial discrimination or partition, a unity of land and people.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil supported Sham'un's statement on the Lebanese forces commander's speech and said: We have succeeded in unifying the rifle in our area. Lebanese forces today are united and form part of the Lebanese Front. The Phalangist leader expressed the hope that the armed organizations in the western area will succeed in unifying their ranks so that those with whom a dialogue could be held or who could be contacted will be appointed.

BEIRUT DAILY REPORTS SECRET HABIB MISSION

PM240955 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 19 Mar 82 pp 1, 10

[Unattributed report: "Habib Says the Situation Is Very Precarious -- Israel Promised Me That It Will Not Violate the Cease-fire"]

[Excerpt] Here in Lebanon, official sources confirmed yesterday that Lebanon has been holding diplomatic contacts with the United States following reports from Europe about a possible Israeli aggression in the south soon.

The sources say that official Lebanon is seeking an answer from the United States on whether the new Israeli threats are nothing more than the customary Israeli threats or a prelude to some real operation.

Sources maintain that information passed to President Sarkis from European sources, mainly Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, indicate that an Israeli strike is imminent. Kreisky is quoted as saying that the delay in the Israeli strike is due to disagreement between Sharon and his prime minister, Menahem Begin.

Meanwhile, AS-SAFIR has received information emphasizing that U.S. special envoy to the Middle East Philip Habib paid a secret visit to Lebanon on Tuesday. His private plane landed at Beirut airport at 1100. He was then taken by helicopter to some place where he met with some Lebanese leaders. The information did not say what the discussions were about, and it did not disclose the names of the people with whom he met.

An official source has denied any knowledge of this and has maintained that for the time being the government is holding its contacts through diplomatic channels.

U.S. special envoy Philip Habib has stated that he returned from his recent Middle East tour with a promise from Israel that it will not break the cease-fire by launching an attack on Palestinian positions in Lebanon.

After submitting his report to President Reagan, he said: "I have had a clear indication that they -- the Israelis -- will abide by the cease-fire."

He added that the situation "is still very precarious" but that Israeli officials told him they will not attack southern Lebanon.

MILITARY RECEIVES U.S. ARMS DELIVERY 23 MAR

NC231358 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] A new consignment of U.S. arms and equipment destined for the Lebanese Army arrived at Beirut harbor this morning. This consignment includes 18 105-MM howitzers, 4 M-113 personnel carriers, and 4 M-578 tow vehicles.

The arms and equipment were delivered in the presence of Director of the Equipment Department Brig Sadiq Ra'd for the Lebanese side and U.S. military attache in Beirut Col (?Jarreck) for the U.S. side.

It is worth mentioning that this consignment is financed under U.S. loan for the 1980 fiscal year. This loan is worth 20 million dollars.

VILLAGES CLASH, TENSIONS INCREASE IN NORTH

NC250841 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The latest security reports received by the northern gendarmery garrison this morning indicate that artillery and rocket exchanges are still continuing in several areas in Al-Kurah and along the Al-Batrun ridges. The clashes are between [the villages of] Mitrit and Bziza on one side and (Shmata) and Dayr Billa on the other. Shells fell on some villages in the Al-Kurah area, including Rish'in and 'Ayn 'Ikrin, thus making the Kusba-Amyun-Bsharri road unsafe. The number of casualties is still unknown. The clashes started at 2015 last night.

1-HOUR WORK STOPPAGE TO BE OBSERVED 25 MAR

JN241703 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] In solidarity with our bold, steadfast kinfolk, the sons of our people in the Golan, the West Bank and Gaza Strip -- who are with exceptional courage and firm faith in their people and nation's rights resisting the vicious Zionist occupation and its brutal, repressive measures -- it has been decided to observe a 1-hour comprehensive work stoppage tomorrow, 25 March, in Syria as of 1200. It will take place in all the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's organizations, other party organizations and public and private organizations to express solidarity with our kinfolk in the occupied territories, to reconfirm the bonds of brotherhood and our common destiny and to back their valiant steadfastness.

IRANIAN MAJLIS MEMBER MEETS WITH OFFICIAL

JN241720 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] People's Assembly speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi received in his office at noon today a delegation representing the Iranian Majlis led by Hasan Rohani, member of the Majlis and the defense committee.

Az-Zu'bi briefed delegation members on current Arab and international relations. The two sides then discussed bilateral relations and the Iranian Islamic revolution's positive stands on Arab causes. Az-Zu'bi expressed the hope that bilateral relations would become stronger and that the two sides would exchange more visits and expertise in order to further promote joint cooperation, which will certainly serve the interests of the two peoples and countries and their keen desire to progress and resist imperialism and Zionism.

Rohani expressed admiration for the progress and development he saw in Syria. He voiced the Iranian people's gratitude for Syria's stands under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and their support for the Iranian Islamic revolution since its victory. Rohani praised Syria's support for the Islamic revolution's polices, which aim at resisting imperialism and Zionism and backing Arab causes, particularly the cause of Palestine and the Palestinian people's rights, as well as the liberation of holy Jerusalem.

Rohani underlined the importance of further promoting bilateral relations and bonds, especially in the parliamentary field.

BULGARIAN CP DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS

Meeting With Al-Ahmar

JN231604 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 23 Mar (SANA) -- Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, received today the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] delegation headed by Comrade Dimitur Stanishev, BCP Central Committee secretary and official in charge of international relations. During the meeting, which was attended by the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus, talks were held on cooperation and friendship between the Ba'th Party and the BCP.

Comrade al-Ahmar informed the delegation of the nature of the Arab situation in light of the reactionary, imperialist and Zionist onslaught -- spearheaded by the United States -- against the world and the Middle East region, in an alliance with the Zionist enemy and the U.S. local reactionary instruments -- headed by the Muslim Brotherhood gang -- to undermine the steadfastness of Syria, implement the Camp David policy and subjugate the region to imperialism and reactionary and Zionist forces.

Comrade al-Ahmar asserted the firm stand of our people under the leadership of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the party's secretary general and president of the republic, against all hostile plans and toward a just peace based on liberating occupied Arab territories and recognizing the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and establish their own independent state.

Comrade al-Ahmar also asserted the importance of the unity and cohesion of the national and progressive forces as well as the importance of bolstering the international front hostile to imperialism and Zionism in order to complete the national independence of the peoples who are struggling for freedom, independence, progress and the consolidation of a just world peace.

Comrade al-Ahmar expressed appreciation for the support the socialist bloc, headed by the USSR, has extended to the Arab struggle in confronting imperialist and Zionist plans and plots against our Arab nation.

The head of the Bulgarian delegation praised the firm Syrian stand against imperialism, Zionism and reaction. He also asserted the support of his party and country for the firm struggle of the Syrian people -- led by the Ba'th Party -- to establish socialism in Syria, restore the occupied Arab territories and achieve recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to establish their own independent state in their homeland.

Departure Statement

JN241548 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The delegation of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee led by Comrade Dimitur Stanishev, Central Committee secretary, left Damascus today for Beirut following a visit of several days to Syria during which it held political and party talks. Delegation members also met with a number of Ba'th Party comrades, who reviewed the achievements of the Ba'th Party in Syria.

In a statement to SANA before his departure, Stanishev praised the historic leaderships of Hafiz al-Asad and Todor Zhivkov and their distinguished role in strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries in the interest of the two friendly peoples and parties.

Stanishev said: We visited Syria in order to sign a new cooperation agreement between the Ba'th Party and the BCP for the next 2 years. This agreement will participate in expanding relations and the exchange of experiences between the two parties.

Stanishev praised the talks he conducted with the Ba'th Party delegation, describing them as positive and characterized by understanding and friendliness. He said: We reviewed current international events, especially in the Middle East and the Balkans. The two sides' views were identical, especially with regard to the aggressive policy of U.S. imperialism, represented by the arms race and interference in the internal affairs of the world's nations, including Syria. U.S. imperialism wants to weaken Syria through imperialist, Zionist and reactionary designs.

Stanshev stressed the importance of the unity among progressive forces in the world so they can stand firmly against the onslaught of world imperialism and Zionism and their aggressive attempts to dominate peoples and usurp their rights.

YUGOSLAV MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS

JN241648 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Yugoslav Interior Minister Gen Franjo Herljevic left Damascus this afternoon following a 3-day visit to the country.

The minister's talks with Syrian Interior Ministry officials focused on the two sides' desire to further promote bilateral cooperation, exchange expertise and bolster ties of friendship between the Interior Ministries in the two friendly countries.

TURKISH DEPUTY PREMIER LEAVES DAMASCUS 24 MAR

JN241552 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this afternoon after a 4-day visit to Syria.

During its visit to Syria, the delegation met with President Hafiz al-Asad and a number of officials in the state and party leadership.

Seeing Ozal off at Damascus airport were: 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs; and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus and his staff.

In a statement to journalists before his departure, Ozal stressed Turkey's support for the just struggle being waged by the Syrian people under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad against Israel's arrogance and expansionist policy to liberate the occupied Arab territory and restore the usurped rights of the Palestinian people.

Ozal called for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and the rest of the occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem. He characterized the Israeli Government decision to annex the occupied Arab Syrian Golan Heights as unfair and unacceptable.

QADDURAH RECEIVES SOVIET DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER

JN241142 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus -- 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received here this morning the Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade.

The two sides reviewed bilateral economic relations and the means of promoting these relations.

FOREIGN MINISTRY MAKES CONTACTS ON AID TO GOLAN

JN231443 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 23 Mar (SANA) -- The Syrian Foreign Ministry is continuing its diplomatic contacts with the concerned international quarters to ensure the arrival of food and medical aid to the inhabitants of the occupied Golan in order to help them face the difficult conditions under which they are living.

Earlier, the ministry held contacts with the international committee of the Red Cross to facilitate the dispatch of these essential foodstuffs to our kinfolk in the occupied Golan, who are suffering from the arbitrary Zionist measures due to their absolute rejection of the Zionist entity's annexation of the Golan. The occupation authorities have imposed a military siege on the towns and villages of the Golan, prevented the Golan inhabitants from entering or leaving them and banned the dispatch of food and medical aid to the citizens, whose heroic strike has entered its 6th week.

BEGIN VIEWS ELECTIONS, GOVERNMENT SITUATION

TA250843 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Mar 82 pp 1, 15

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Menahem Begin by Yehoshu'a Bitzur on 24 March; place not given]

[Text] Replying to Ma'ariv's question as to whether the toppling of the government and the resulting transitional government could stop the withdrawal from the Sinai, Prime Minister Menahem Begin last night said: "This government will fulfill all its international commitments faithfully and respectably in accord with the peace treaty, whether in its capacity as a regular government or as a transitional government."

Mr Begin is convinced that if elections were to be held early, the Likud would receive 52 to 55 seats and it would be able to form a stable government with the same partners.

Speaking to MA'ARIV, the prime minister emphasized that there is no difference between a regular government and a transitional government which is also a government for all intents and purposes. A transitional government has even the advantage of not needing the confidence of the Knesset. Mr Begin recalled that in the first Knesset he had proposed limiting the authorities of a transitional government but his proposal was rejected.

The prime minister asked: "Where did Rabbi Druckman get the idea that if he helped topple the government he would be thus stopping the withdrawal from the Sinai? This is totally unfounded, we will fulfill our commitments."

The prime minister reiterated that he was certain the elections would be held early. He wants elections to be held soon but the NRP and Agudat Yisra'el are not interested in this. That is why he believes that elections will be held within 12 to 18 months. In Begin's opinion, it is impossible for a government based on 60 Knesset members to function properly.

MA'ARIV asked: What would be the results of elections? Mr Begin sounded very optimistic; "I believe that the Likud will receive 52 to 55 seats. I am told we may receive an absolute majority in the Knesset but I do not believe it. We will be able to form a government with the same partners, a stable government which will be able to function and operate better. There is no doubt that it is necessary to hold elections."

MA'ARIV asked: How will the government react if the Knesset does not approve the budget legislation? Begin admitted: "Even if there is no majority to approve the budget, it would not cause the government to fall. However, such a situation is not healthy, it does not permit good administration and that is not the way to run state affairs. Therefore, it is necessary to hold elections."

Replying to a remark that for the time being there is no majority in the Knesset to pass a law dissolving the Knesset and calling for new elections, Mr Begin said: "Objective developments will lead to it. When the powers are balanced it is difficult for the government to pass laws in the Knesset. There are two large political blocs today which do not allow each other to function because their strength is balanced. This situation is impossible from the parliamentary point of view. There must be one large political force to conduct state affairs. That is why it is necessary to hold elections."

Question: "Does the Alignment have a chance to form a government?"

Mr Begin sneered: "Tell Shim'on that he can put his new jacket in mothballs, it will keep his clothes for a long time and, believe me, I know what I am talking about."

Question: "Is it possible that the two Telem Knesset members may join the coalition after the end of the withdrawal and thus give it a majority?"

Begin: "It does not seem to me that Telem will join the government, that is not a solution. There is no way to expand this government."

Question: "Why did you not ultimately go to the president?" [resign from office]

Begin looks pleased with himself: "I was not putting on an act yesterday and my fellow Cabinet members may attest to it. I submitted to them my proposal to go to the president and I accepted their decision, which contradicted my own point of view. I wanted to resign but I was prevented from doing so. It was good that I asked the advice of the members of the Cabinet. In any case, Peres does not stand a chance to form a government; the Alignment will not attain power."

Question: "Do you feel strong enough to cope with the huge problems constantly confronting you?"

Begin looked pleased with his achievements: "I derive great satisfaction from my work. The government is now more effective and compact, it now works better than in the second half of the last term in power. We are doing many important things and this gives me a great satisfaction and helps me overcome all pains."

SHAMIR CALLS KNESSET VOTE 'CIRCUMSTANTIAL'

TA241843 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1750 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Jerusalem, 24 Mar -- "It will be very hard for the government to maintain its present Knesset majority. On the other hand, early elections will not be good for the country and the people; and most of all they are detrimental to the economy. However, if there is no other choice, elections will be held that will bring the Likud back to power more united and stronger." These remarks were made by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in response to questions presented by 40 French parliamentarians -- representatives of all the factions -- currently visiting Israel. Shamir met this group of peple today at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem and discussed with them Israel's problems and path with respect to foreign policy.

The members of the French parliamentary delegation demonstrated interest and knowledge of Israel's affairs and even requested specific details on the events of the last 24 hours in the Knesset, when the Cabinet was in jeopardy in view of having lost a parliamentary majority. The foreign minister explained what happened in the Knesset and noted that the tie vote should be regarded as a single outstanding occurrence which he referred to as "a circumstantial coalition," rather than a regular phenomenon.

In discussing the problem of the evacuation of the Sinai, the foreign minister emphasized that since 1968 Israel has invested $17 billion in the Sinai, adding that Egypt is receiving all this on a silver platter. In addition, Israel will have spent $6 billion for the evacuation and the dismantling of the Sinai settlements. "We know this is a heavy price that we are paying for peace," Shamir said, adding that compared to the financial burden involved in the evacuation, the human sacrifice accompanying this process should similarly not be ignored. "Do not forget that we are dealing with the uprooting of towns, villages, families and homes, hoping that the future will justify this sacrifice," he emphasizes.

The foreign minister reviewed Israel's efforts in trying to advance the autonomy negotiations, explaining that the Arab countries by and large oppose this autonomy out of fear that it constitutes a danger to the Arab rejectionist front.

"We know from facts, information and analysis that the Arabs have been applying heavy pressure on Egypt in the hope of preventing the autonomy negotiations from reaching their positive conclusion," the foreign minister said. He emphasized that in the next few months the Egyptian administration will be put to the test to see if it can withstand such pressure in view of President Mubarak's repeated declarations of his resolute determination to pursue the course of peace while attempting to get Egypt back into the fold of the Arab community but not at the expense of ties with Israel.

Shamir expressed his opinion that the PLO is waging its own struggle in its own way against the autonomy for fear that if it is implemented that organization will then become helpless. We can all remember the murderous acts the PLO carried out in Judaea and Samaria during the election period in 1978, directing its attempts against moderate leaders, and we can all recall how it obtained strong positions for its supporters among the Arab public through terrorist measures. Israel, however, believes that upon the implementation of the autonomy it is feasible to believe that important people from the Arab ranks in the territories will join it.

As for Israel's ties with Europe, the foreign minister said in the last few months Europe has improved its attitude toward Israel, and there has been an increase in readiness to hold a dialogue despite the differences of opinion. This positive development proves that the Europeans are aware that it is impossible to contribute toward finding a solution to the Middle East conflict as long as Israel and its problems and positions are being overlooked. Shamir emphasized that as far as Europe is concerned the Middle East conflict is merely a question of a certain foreign policy -- as against another -- whereas for Israel it is a matter of its very existence.

LABOR PARTY MEETS; PERES COMMENTS ON SITUATION

TA241034 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Before this morning's Knesset session the Alignment faction convened for a short meeting. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said there is no basis for the reports that the alignment is afriad to replace the government. He criticized an article in DAVAR this morning which expressed Alignment relief over the prime minister's decision not to resign. According to MK Peres, the prime minister's moves were nothing but a trick. He in fact convened the Cabinet in order to ask the cats whether they are prepared to give up the cream.

MOVE TOWARD 'PARLIAMENTARY REVOLUTION' REPORTED

TA241258 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by Moshe Meisels]

[Text] In the Labor Party's Knesset faction, which met today to discuss the situation created after yesterday's Knesset vote, a majority is crystallizing in favor of stepping up the attempts to lead to a "parliamentary revolution" in the Knesset, without holding new elections. People in the faction think that the Knesset vote proves that the chance for such a "revolution" has increased and it could lead to the establishment of a new government headed by the Alignment. The overthrow of the government should not be rushed before the completion of the Sinai withdrawal and it would be better to be satisfied with the tactical achievement gained in the Knesset last night. The majority in the top ranks of the Labor Party is opposed to the creation of a national unity government.

SHAPIRA DISCUSSES COALITION OUSTER WITH NISIM

TA250829 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Mar 82 pp 1, 7

[Report by Shlomo Naqdimon, Arye Tzimuqi, Bina Barzel and Yisra'el Tomer]

[Excerpt] Coalition Chairman Avraham Shapira of Agudat Yisra'el discussed yesterday with Justice Minister Moshe Nisim a proposal that Shapira should bring about the government's downfall next week by means of laying on the Knesset table the draft bill for the "who is a Jew," law rather than the budgetary law.

Shapira said to Nisim that he would try, by Monday 29 March -- when the vote on the budgetary issue is scheduled to be held -- to convince MK Hayim Druckman, MRP, to vote in favor of the budget. For this purpose he also intends to speak with Torah experts with whom Rabbi Druckman is close. However, if it turns out that this is a lost case, then it would be better for the government to submit a motion for amending the Law of Return which determines that a converted Jew is a person who has converted according to Halakha [Jewish religious law]. This is the "who is a Jew" law.

Minister Nisim replied that the idea appeared to be reasonable to him but he has not yet begun moves to implement it. Nisim thinks that there is a possibility that the government will nevertheless succeed in having the budgetary law approved, in some way, without this leading to the government's downfall. It appears that if the government does not on its own accord initiate a move that will lead to its resignation, the opposition will try to do so. This attempt, as far as can be seen, will be made next week, which is the last week of Knesset activity before the Knesset recesses on 1 April. (During the recess period there is no possibility of submitting motions of no confidence in the government.

DRUCKMAN TO CONTINUE OPPOSING COALITION

TA241918 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Rabbi Hayim Druckman, the rebel leader of the NRP, says he intends to continue voting against the government in the future. Prime Minister Begin says it is only a question of time before new elections will have to take place. The prime minister told newsmen in the Knesset that he expects this will be within a year. He was speaking after the government managed to weather another parliamentary crisis but only by calling a snap vote. Following today's events was reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] The prime minister was frank. With 60 opposition representatives facing 60 of the coalition in the Knesset it is going to be very difficult to get any legislation passed. Objectively speaking, the prime minister said, developments must lead naturally to new elections -- he thinks within a year. But he is also confident that his Likud party -- and not the Alignment opposition -- will continue to head an Israeli Government. Yesterday, a no-confidence motion ended with a tie vote. Today, the government fought tenaciously to prevent its interim budget proposals facing a similar fate. The man with the key was Rabbi Hayim Druckman, a member of the NRP, who says he supports the government in everything but its plans to withdraw from Sinai and because of that he will now vote against the government at every opportunity.

[Druckman] Listen, I wish I wouldn't have to do it. I wish the government would come and say: We are going to stop the withdrawal from Sinai. Then, I lift my two hands for the government. I have no ambition to bring down the government. I am not in opposition just to be in opposition, to bring down the government. I fight for a principle but I think that this government when it does not have the majority has to stop the withdrawal. After stopping the withdrawal I am again for this government.

[Ben-'Ami] This government, when the government discovered that Rabbi Druckman was not in the Knesset building, they asked the speaker to call a snap vote on the interim budget. As Finance Minister Yoram Aridor presented his proposals and Knesset Speaker Manahem Savidor tried to maintain order, the opposition parties roared their defiance. Complaining at Savidor's snap vote call, they surrounded his desk and did everything to try to and disrupt the voting count.

The budget proposals passed their first reading by 58 votes in favor, 2 against and the rest of the opposition members boycotting the votes. Afterwards, the Knesset speaker told me he had no second thoughts about the way he had handled the issue. But the budget proposal must still face a second and third reading. The government can breathe easily until the Knesset reconvenes on Monday but then its drama begins again. [end recording]

The vote on the supplementary budget has been postponed until next week and the coalition will try to convince Druckman to vote for it. The Alignment tried to get the vote today after Druckman came into the plenum and said that he would vote against the bill. However, the chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee exploited his right to reply to the debate next week.

IDF COMMANDER DISMISSES NABULUS, RAMALLAH MAYORS

TA250709 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The commander of the Central Command has dismissed Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah and Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf. The IDF spokesman has announced that this was done against the background of their incitement activities and their nonrecognition of the Civilian Administration and repeated attempts to disrupt public order and orderly administration, in accordance with the line of the PLO and its directives.

Our correspondent in the territories, Arye Gus, reports that this morning the two people were taken from their homes and brought to the office of the commander of the Central Command, Ori Or. He spoke with them, heard what they had to say and afterward gave them the dismissal order.

Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, points out that the decision to dismiss Bassam ash-Shak'ah and Karim Khalaf was made at a ministerial consultation headed by the prime minister on 23 March after they discussed briefings they heard from the security establishment. The dismissal of the two people fits in with the Cabinet decision to work toward the pushing out of PLO supporters.

IDF Officers to Replace

TA250815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GM 25 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The Civilian Administration has appointed two of its officers to head the town councils in Ramallah and Nabulus. Our correspondent, Pinhas 'Inbari, has learned that instead of Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, No'am Tal has been appointed and, instead of Bassam ash-Shak'ah in Nabulus, Maj Nir Tzoref has been appointed.

Ash-Shak'ah Makes Statement

TA250939 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0910 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Ramallah, 25 March -- The dismissed Nabulus mayor, Bassam ash-Shak'ah, told the ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria, Shefi Gabay, this morning that he had rejected the order handed him this morning about the dissolution of the municipal government and had also announced, in the names of his colleagues, Al-Birah Mayor Ibrahim at-tawil and Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf, that "we are the legal, elected mayors and we will continue to serve in our posts despite the administration's orders to dissolve our municipalities."

Ash-Shak'ah said that the dissolution of the municipal governments was a rascist step jeopardizing all the area. "I have rejected the order and the other orders against my colleagues in both form and content and I told those who handed over the orders that the conquest [as received] has no right to make such decisions." He also said that the Civilian Administration was illegal, "and it is our right to reject it and fight against it and the establishment of such an administration contradicts international laws and we regard it as a racist, hostile element."

Ash-Shak'ah also said that this morning he and the members of the municipal council had tried to enter the municipal building but he had found the building surrounded by soldiers. "When I tried to enter the building with the elected members of the municipal council, soldiers, who had already entered the offices, pushed me back by force." He claimed that there were soldiers who threatened him with bodily harm. After an argument, according to him, he left the building, together with the council members.

Ramallah Mayor Reacts

TA251038 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf has rejected the dismissal order against him and has announced that he still regards himself as the town mayor because he was chosen by the inhabitants. Previously, the dismissed mayor of Nabulus, Bassam ash-Shak'ah, made a similar statement. Khalaf said that he tried to meet this morning with Bassam ash-Shak'ah but the Military Government prevented him from doing so. This morning the commander of the Central Command dismissed these two mayors and appointed in their place two officers from the Civilian Administration.

Bethlehem Mayor Reacts

TA250917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said that the dismissal of the Ramallah and Nabulus mayors is an arbitrary move likely to have a serious effect on the territories. In his opinion, the dismissal of the mayors is an introduction of the application of Israeli law in Judaea and Samaria. In the Bethlehem mayor's opinion, the two people should have been given a trial [to express their views] it should not be forgotten that the mayors themselves fell prey to despicable aggression. Our correspondent points out that local mayors are now meeting in Bethlehem.

W. Bank Mayors React

TA251132 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The mayors in the West Bank have made public sharp protests in reaction to the dismissal of Mayors ash-Shak'ah and Khalaf. Tulkarm Mayor Hilmi Habun says the dismissals are a step in the policy to get rid of the nationalist figures who support the PLO.

The acting mayor of Hebron, Mustafa Natshah, called the dismissals an act of repression and claimed that the Military Government had lost its nerve.

Bayt Sahur Mayor Hanna al-Atrash is convinced that Israel received the green light from the White House to rid the towns of PLO supporters. He said this morning's dismissals were a provocation of the UN Security Council.

Committees Criticize

TA250922 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The Committee for Solidarity with Bi'r Zayt has expressed solidarity with the mayors of Nabulus, Ramallah and Al-Birah. In an announcement it has issued, the committee says that the head of the Civilian Administration will not be able to change the fact that the three are the elected mayors. The actions of the Civilian Administration, the committee emphasizes, leave the Palestinians no other road than that of violence to defend their rights. The Peace Now Movement says that the government has not learned anything from the events of the last few weeks and it is continuing with a policy of oppression and worsening the hostility.

MINISTRY PROTESTS REMARKS BY EGYPT'S UN ENVOY

TA251040 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche sent a sharp protest to Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Sa'd Murtada concerning the remarks made by Egypt's UN ambassador last night during the Security Council debate on the situation in the territories. Kimche stressed that the remarks are inappropriate for a friendly state. Egypt's UN ambassador said that Cairo cannot ignore the adverse influence Israel's policy in the territories has on the peace process.

BETHLEHEM MAYOR SAYS HIS LIFE THREATENED

TA231316 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor claims that his life has been threatened by the village leagues. Ilyas Frayj told reporter Jerry Cheslow that the threat was contained in a letter he received this morning.

[Begin recording] [Cheslow] Mayor Ilyas Frayj said he received this hand-written letter today threatening his life.

[Frayj] To the mayor of Bethlehem, Ilyas Frayj, we begin this letter by warning you of the consequences of the attack and provocations you direct against us and the power vested in us by the civil and military authorities in the State of Israel. Therefore you must obey us and abide by all our following orders:

Not to denounce the village leagues. Not to incite and encourage demonstrations against Israel. Not to continue your membership in the terrorist National Guidance Committee. Otherwise, you will be in immense danger which you better avoid. You will have no excuse after this warning. This decision was unanimously taken during the meeting held by the village leagues council on Saturday, 13 March 1982. Signed, leaders of the village league in Bethlehem

[Cheslow] No names were signed to the letter. The mayor says that he takes the threat very seriously and intends to go to the police with it. He also believes that the letter may be the start of a violent power struggle in the territories. However, the head of the Bethlehem Area Village League, Bishara Qimsiyah, denies all knowledge of the letter.

[Qimsiyah -- in Arabic fading into English translation] I have no connection with the letter. The village league did not write to Mayor Frayj. It might have been the work of people who want to increase tension and besmirch the name of the league, Qimsiyah says. [end recording]

PRISON SENTENCES GIVEN TO 17 W. BANK YOUTHS

TA231447 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1425 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Nabulus, 23 Mar -- Military courts in Judaea and Samaria on 23 March convicted 17 youths from various towns in the region of disturbing the peace, and sentenced them each to 1 month in prison, and 5 months suspended sentence. They were also ordered to pay fines ranging from 9,000 to 12,000 Israeli shekels. Additional youths arrested in the course of the recent demonstrations will appear before the court in the coming days.

ITIM REPORTS PUBLIC ORDER VIOLATIONS IN GAZA

TA231452 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1425 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Gaza, 23 Mar -- Today is the third day that violations of public order have taken place in the Gaza District, as actions of solidarity with the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. In Rafah the police detained 40 demonstrating youths and subsequently released them following questioning. In Gaza nine people who disturbed the public order were similarly detained. There were severe order disruptions in Rafah, where an IDF soldier was hit by a stone during the disperal of a demonstration. The Rafah municipality has declared a 3-day strike.

In other places in the Gaza District youths organized in groups. These are primarily schoolchildren who throw stones at Israeli guards. They also tried to block roads and set tires on fire. The security forces have stepped up patrols, mainly at junctions and in city centers. There is no commercial strike in most Gaza towns, and both public transportation and school studies are continuing.

SHARON BELIEVES WEST BANK WILL SOON BE CALM

TA231558 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Today Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon appeared before the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, which debated the latest events in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Gil'ad Mishori has returned from the Knesset with this report:

During the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee's meeting the defense minister received a report on what is occurring in the territories and he told to the committee that today the rioting has calmed somewhat. Sharon told the committee that it could be expected that within a few days calm will return to Judaea and Samaria. According to the defense minister, this is the first time that people from among the Arabs of the territories who are opposed to the PLO are getting up and saying this openly. The defense minister said that IDF troops behaved with great restraint in Judaea and Samaria: I can also say the same thing with regard to the settlers, Sharon said.

As for the Golan Heights, the defense minister said that the situation of Israel's friends has become very much worse there and there was no choice but to take the steps that were taken. The intention is to impose all Israel's laws in detail and it is inconceivable that an inhabitant of the Golan Heights should go around without an identity card. The only thing that the extremists in Judaea and Samaria are pinning their hopes on, Sharon said, is what is occurring or could occur here, at home.

He drew a sharp reaction from MK Shim'on Peres. I advise you to refrain from this way of casting suspicions and speaking as though someone was on the brink of being a traitor, Peres said. Nobody needs a certificate of honesty from Minister Sharon. MK Yosi Sarid said that Israel must make a unilateral withdrawal from all the densely populated regions of the West Bank and, until a peace agreement, to be satisfied with only a security strip.

Yitzhaq Rabin is opposed to a unilateral withdrawal from anywhere without a peace arrangement. I am in favor of fostering those who are opposed to the PLO, Rabin said, but I see serious internal contradictions in the government's policy. The defense minister said that the PLO should sit in Jordan, Rabin said. Anyone who provides the PLO with legitimization in a certain place provides the PLO with legitimization and to think that Jordan could be a legitimite border for the PLO is a mistake. MK's Hilel and Rosolio attacked the government's moves in the Golan Heights; the government has turned a quite friendly population into a hostile population. There is no reason for haste in imposing laws and codes on the Golan Heights, according to Alignment members in the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee.

MORE DISTURBANCES IN E. JERUSALEM, W. BANK, GAZA

TA231654 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] In Shu'fat, an Arab youth blocked the road from Jerusalem to Neve Ya'aqov with a burning tire. He was arrested. Police are holding 17 merchants from East Jerusalem for failing to obey orders and open their shops. The mayors of the large West Bank towns have declared that in their opinion the only legitimate municipal council in Al-Birah is the one headed by Ibrahim at-Tawil. They also condemned the measures the government is taking in order to dismiss additional mayors.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that the merchants' strike subsided today and that in many towns numerous shops were open. However, this afternoon some commercial offices decided to renew the strike until the conclusion of the UN Security Council debate on the situation in the territories. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has condemned the attacks on tourists by some of his town's inhabitants. In Rafah, disturbances ended after an IDF patrol fired shots into the air. Ten youths from Rafah have been arrested. Police dismissed as baseless the rumour which triggered the disturbances, according to which an IDF officer raped a local resident.

OR URGES SETTLERS TO ACT ONLY IN 'SELF-DEFENSE'

TA231803 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The commander of the Central Command has urged the Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria to avoid using their personal arms unnecessarily. However, he emphasized that they would enjoy full IDF support if they carefully follow the instructions and only use their personal arms for self-defense. Major General Or today conferred in his office with the heads of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

JUSTICE MINISTER COMMENTS ON W. BANK POLICY

TA231859 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1815 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Tel Aviv, 23 Mar -- Justice Minister Moshe Nisim said today that the government's policy in Judaea and Samaria is to encourage the moderates and follow a harsh policy toward the instigators and those trying to incite the population to rebellion. The minister was addressing a conference of accountants, whose organization is marking its jubillee at the Tel Aviv Hilton.

The justice minister said that in the last few weeks Israel has been experiencing great and difficult events involving a lot of tension. In this context, he added that the Cabinet cannot afford to have private individuals conduct its policy and determine its subsequent outcome. The Cabinet's policy is to evacuate people from the Yamit District who arrived there illegally for the purpose of torpedoing government policy. "The Cabinet will not tolerate anarchy and will honor its international commitments," he emphasized.

Referring to the situation in Judaea and Samaria, he said the demonstrations erupted because the PLO opposes any peaceful arrangement with Israel, wishing to establish a Palestinian state instead of Israel. It is trying to gain control over the Judaea and Samaria inhabitants and even tries to guide and direct local affairs there. In this the PLO enjoys both the recognition of and cooperation with Jordan and all the rejectionist countries.

He added that it is Israel's job to guarantee that proper order is maintained in Judaea and Samaria and to encourage the moderate population to either join it in this or support the Camp David process. However, there are mayors and other leaders who are doing everything they can to incite the population to mutiny and to stop them from moving closer to the autonomy plan. Minister Nisim also addressed himself to the limitations imposed on journalists covering the Golan Heights, saying that they are aimed at serving Israel's security needs.

GAZA MUNICIPALITY DECLARES SYMPATHY STRIKE

TA240942 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Can the activities of the residents in the territories lead to political changes in Israel or even topple the government? This question preoccupied people in Judaea and Samaria last night following the tie in the Knesset vote yesterday. Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria Arye Gus reports:

[Begin recording] This question has been on the agenda more than once but it seems that for the first time now the supporters of disorder and demonstrations can point to a real achievement. The government could have fallen because of events in the territories — events such as disturbances and demonstrations which result in sharp reactions in Israel and that led to the motion of no confidence in the Knesset. Nobody in the territories deludes himself thinking that the vote in the Knesset revolved around the territories, but the political achievement, so certain notables believe, was absolutely clear.

This was not the question facing the Gaza municipality and the nationalist bodies in the Gaza Strip yesterday when they decided to join the strike in Judaea and Samaria. The dramatic events in Judaea and Samaria -- the demonstrations, the strikes, the removal of the [Al-Birah] mayor and the trial of another mayor [of 'Anabta], and finally, the death of youths in demonstrations — all have left the Gaza Strip in the shadow and this was intolerable as far as Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa is concerned, all the more so because the demonstrations in Rafah had already begun.

Just as he did when the physicians staged a strike a few months ago, so this time too the Gaza mayor examined events in Judaea and Samaria meticulously and chose the right moment to join in. The reasons cited in the municipality's manifesto are simple: solidarity with the Judaea and Samaria Arabs, protesting the Israeli occupation and — in order to gain more sympathy for their move -- protesting what they call the dishonoring of a Rafah female student. This is a hint to the allegation that an IDF officer tried to rape a student.

The Gaza Strip will join Judaea and Samaria and stage a general strike. The nationalist bodies in Judaea and Samaria have declared they are extending the strike by a few more days. The mayors have declared a strike to protest the trial of 'Anabta Mayor Wahid Hamadallah. The 'Anabta mayor will this morning be brought to a Tulkarm military court since he violated a confinement order issued against him and for having possessed publications from a terrorist organization. [end recording]

DAVAR: W. BANK MAYORS NOT FREE OF BLAME

TA231320 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Mar 82 p 11

[Haggay Eshed commentary: "No Confidence In the Town Mayors Too"]

[Excerpts] Anyone who will explain today, and give reasons for the need to express no confidence in the government, must also concurrently, but on a different level, express no confidence in the West Bank mayors. They failed and disappointed the hope that could have been accorded to them, a hope which, in fact, accompanied their election. The failure and the disappointment are enormous. They too are responsible for the situation that has developed. And if there are 'quislings' among the West Bank population, then it is their leaders and the town mayors who serve as agents of the PLO or of Jordan, and who prefer blind obedience to orders from Beirut and Amman rather than the wellbeing of their peoples and electors, thus violating the trust accorded to them by circles in Israel and in Western countries.

The town mayors connected with Jordan and the PLO have time and again failed in the crucial national test and they must vacate their offices for a different leadership. That leadership cannot start growing before the real quislings in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Jordan and PLO agents leave the stage. All those who will express no confidence in the Israeli Government would be well advised to make it properly clear that this does not in any way imply an expression of confidence in the failing and destructive Palestinian leadership, which acts all the time against the national interests of its people, and even against the requirements for peace and security of all the nations in the region. They must relinquish their posts.

IDF DISPERSES RAFAH DEMONSTRATORS; CURFEW IMPOSED

TA240907 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0844 GMT 24 Mar 82

[News Bulletin]

[Text] A curfew has been imposed in Rafah following an increase in disturbances there during the last few hours. Hundreds of demonstrators went out into the streets, set tires on fire, hurled stones and disrupted the work involved in the demarcation of the new border. The security forces are trying to disperse the demonstrators with tear gas. Our correspondent, 'Adi Hadar, reports that in Khan Yunus as well, demonstrators today blocked the intersection to the town and set tires on fire.

As for Judaea and Samaria several arrests were made last night. Six youths were arrested at the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus and three were arrested in Talkarm. They are accused of arson and disturbances and will face speedy military trials.

Unknown persons last night tried to set fire to the labor office of the Civilian Administration in the village of Hawwarah south of Nabulus. Damage was caused to windows and doors. In addition, unknown persons painted slogans against the Civilian Administration on the walls of two Janin schools. Security forces continue to patrol sensitive sites in Judaea and Samaria to prevent disturbances.

W. BANK UNREST CONTINUES; ARAB YOUTH DIES

TA240904 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0859 GMT 24 Mar 82

[News Bulletin]

[Text] An Arab youth died in the Hebron hospital this morning a few minutes after he was taken there having been wounded by gunfire. An investigation has begun about the circumstances of his death.

Our correspondent 'Arad Nir updates us further that there were disturbances in other places in Judaea and Samaria this morning -- stone roadblocks were set up, stones were hurled at vehicles, tires were set on fire and the Palestinian flags were hoisted. In east Jerusalem too there were disturbances this morning. Classes are being disrupted there and a partial commerical strike is being staged.

Further Details

TA240931 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] A youth, Farhan (Khadur), 18, died in the village of Bani Na'im near Hebron. The circumstances of the death are not now known. Arab sources report he was shot by civilians who were driving in an Israeli jeep. His body was brought to the Hebron hospital and was later transferred to the pathological institute in Abu Kabir. The IDF has begun an investigation.

The commercial strike in east Jerusalem is almost complete and the school strike is partial. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that no disorders have yet been reported by the police.

It was reported from the Gaza Strip that the general strike declared by the local authorities is partial. Some shops have opened and public transportation is proceeding as usual. An ITIM correspondent reports that in contrast, all municipalities are closed and services have been stopped. Certain organizations such as the attorney's association and the chambers of commerce have joined the strike. Students in several schools refused to enter their classes. In the morning several youths stoned a bus travelling from Khan Yunus to Rafah. Nobody was hurt. Attempts to block roads leading to refugee camps in the center of the Gaza Strip have failed.

W. BANK TOWNS STAGE PARTIAL COMMERCIAL STRIKE

TA241239 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The disturbances in Judaea and Samaria have continued today as well and there is a partial commerical strike in the large towns. An IDF soldier was wounded near Ramallah by a stone thrown at his vehicle. The windshield of an Israeli vehicle was shattered in Jericho. Only some of the east Jerusalem schools were open today and the commercial strike is almost complete. A partial strike of schools and businessmen began today. The public institutions and the municipalities are strike-bound for 3 days.

TRIAL OF 'ANABTA MAYOR BEGINS IN TULKARM

TA241241 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The trial of 'Anabta Mayor Wahid Hamadallah began in the military court in Tulkarm this morning. Wahid Hamadallah is accused of violating confinement orders and of having possessed publications by a terrorist organization. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Hamadallah denied the charges saying his only wish was to express his and his people's opposition to the Civilian Administration and to the autonomy.

ARAB YOUTH KILLED IN CLASH WITH POLICE 24 MAR

TA241324 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] A youth from a refugee camp near Janin was killed in an incident with a policeman whom he had earlier assaulted and tried to knife. The policeman was injured.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that border police tried to stop the youth, who had instigated shopowners to leave their stores closed. However, all of a sudden he leaped on one of the police and stabbed him, and then the other policemen shot at him. An investigation has been launched. Meanwhile, curfew was imposed on Janin until further notice.

Said Active in Terrorist Groups

TA250620 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0605 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Janin, 24 Mar -- The resident of the refugee camp near Janin who was shot to death on Wednesday in the Janin market after he stabbed a border policeman was known to be active in terrorist organizations. This emerged tonight from an investigation by security forces.

DISTURBANCES REPORTED IN JERUSALEM; 15 ARRESTED

TA241818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Fifteen east Jerusalem residents were arrested today, some for violating the public order, others for violating decrees by refusing to open their shops. Businesses in the eastern part of the city were closed today, as were most schools. Near Herod's Gate four policemen were slightly injured by stones hurled at them by youths. Three female train passengers were slightly injured when the train in which they were riding passed through the village of Batir in the Jerusalem corridor, on its way to Haifa. The window of the car they were in was shattered by stones. In the east Talpiyyot quarter of Jersualem, windows were smashed by stones thrown by students from the village of Sur Bahir.

MAYOR SAYS GAZA BUSINESSMEN FORCED TO OPEN SHOPS

TA242019 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa said that businessmen in his town were forced to open their shops and that in those shops where the owners could not be found, their metal doors were welded shut. He told an ITIM correspondent that pedestrians were picked up in the street and were lined up with their hands up. According to Ash-Shawwa, a large IDF unit is surrounding Rafah preventing the inhabitants from entering the city and members of organizations from going from one place to another.

W. BANK MAYORS MEET W. EUROPEAN CONSULS

TA242118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf and the dismissed mayor of Al-Birah, Ibrahim at-Tawil, met this evening with the West European consuls in east Jerusalem and urged them to pressure Israel to stop what they termed the acts of oppression in the territories. After the meeting, Khalaf and At-Tawil told journalists that the consuls had been summoned so that they could witness the suffering of the inhabitants.

GAZA YOUTH DIES; E. JERUSALEM UNREST CONTINUES

TA250855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The youth from Rafah who was injured yesterday while handling explosives died today in a Gaza hospital. Security forces are continuing their investigation of the incident. In Gaza three inhabitants have been injured while handling explosives. They have been hospitalized.

In east Jerusalem several incidents of stonethrowing occurred this morning. Stones were thrown in Shu'fat and near the [old city's] Damascus gate. At the Damascus gate a border policeman fired shots into the air to chase away the culprits. Our correspondent, Moti 'Eden, reports that the commercial strike in east Jerusalem is continuing but that it is only partial.

IDF SOLDIER KILLED IN GAZA ATTACK 25 MAR

TA251410 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The IDF spokesman reports that an IDF master sergeant, Pinhas Grossman, aged 30, from Rehovot, was killed this morning. Three other soldiers were wounded when a handgrenade that was thrown at the military car in which they were riding exploded. Security forces have begun searches for the throwers of the handgrenade.

Earlier our correspondent had reported that two masked people stood on the shoulder of the road and threw two handgrenades. One of them exploded inside the military car. The other apparently ricocheted from it to a private Gaza resident's car and in exploding wounded three Gaza residents. The attackers fled into nearby orchards and disappeared. In the incident, as stated, Master Sergeant Pinhas Grossman from Rehovot was killed. His funeral will take place in 1 and 1/2 hours in the civilian section of the Rehovot cemetery.

MILSON INTERVIEWED ON WEST BANK SITUATION

TA242039 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Interview with Professor Menahem Milson, head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir, Rafiq Halabi and Ron Ben-Yishay in the studio -- live]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] The UN Security Council is scheduled to convene within 1 hour in New York at Syria's request, which was also seconded by other countries. The escalation in the situation in Judaea and Samaria and even in the Gaza district began last Thursday when the Al-Birah Municipal Council was dismissed because it decided not to hold any contacts with the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria. Demonstrations erupted against this background. Two Arabs were killed and eight Israelis were wounded, including two people who sustained serious wounds, in Judaea and Samaria today. There is a blockade of several towns in Judaea and Samaria. Also, against this background, among other things, motions of no confidence in the government were submitted in the Knesset. The guest on our program this evening is Professor Menahem Milson, a professor of Arab literature and currently the head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria. Professor Milson, good evening to you.

[Milson] Good evening.

[Question] At this moment, how would you describe what is happening in Judaea and Samaria? Would you say this is a civilian uprising by the inhabitants?

[Answer] I would describe it as a power struggle between Israel and the PLO for a chance at peace with the Palestinian Arabs. This is a tough struggle, both we and the PLO know that this is a critical struggle in the struggle to foil any possibility of political negotiations and a political solution of the conflict. Their goal is to foil the possibility of political negotiations: Our goal is certainly to create the conditions in which Arab Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza can sit and talk about a political solution, and conduct political negotiations. The PLO's goal is to foil such a possibility.

[Question] The escalation in Judaea and Samaria actually began when the Al-Birah Municipal Council was dismissed, when the mayor refused to meet with you. Other mayors at least declare that they will not meet or talk with you in the future. Will they also be dismissed?

[Answer] The Al-Birah Municipal Council was dismissed a long time after the Civilian Administration began functioning. Not all the mayors are boycotting the Civilian Administration. Those municipalities headed by avowed PLO supporters who follow the PLO line and guidelines declared right after the Civilian Administration was established on 1 November -- following PLO decisions -- that they would boycott the Civilian Administration. Nevertheless, we were not out to initiate a confrontation. The fact is that as of 1 November and for a long time afterwards we held dozens of working meetings with various people in the region, with economic elements, charity organizations, health and education institutions, teachers, village councils, municipal councils and village associations.

However, the PLO is obviously not interested in such a situation. The fact that most of the population did not boycott the Civilian Administration infuriated the PLO and the most clear-cut and unambiguous proof that the population has accepted the Civilian Administration is the dozens of people who arrive each morning at the gates of the Civilian Administration in Bet El feeling absolutely certain that their requests and appeals will be dealt with and responded to. This was a most dangerous situation as far as the PLO is concerned because it points directly at the direction which we regard as harboring chances -- namely, creating an atmosphere in which Palestinians ready to conduct negotiations will stand up, whereas the PLO wants precisely to crush this tendency. That is why it is seeking and encouraging a confrontation.

[Question] Professor Milson, before we go into other matters, I would like to ask you: What in fact is the Civilian Administration which you head? How is it different from the setup that existed before its establishment?

[Answer] It differs in that the establishment of the Civilian Administration, according to the decision of the defense minister and the government, is founded on the division of military and security issues on the one hand -- these are handled by security forces -- and the handling of the population's problems. A civilian administration does not mean that it is handled totally by civilians. I am a civilian, but not all the people involved are civilians: The head of the Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip is a brigadier general. It means handling civilian problems -- the problems of the population -- as opposed to chasing terrorists, dispersing demonstrations and imposing a curfew. That is to say, there is a distinction here between the various duties.

[Question] Professor Milson, I would like to go back to one of your answers to a question by my colleagues. Let us assume that you would like to meet Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah but he does not want to meet you; you would like to meet with the mayor of Ramallah and he does not want to meet you either. Will the Civilian Administration dismiss them from their posts as was the case in Al-Birah?

[Answer] The question is not whether I want to meet this or that mayor and that is not how the question should be posed. The problem is the significance of the boycott. Why did the PLO rule that a boycott should be imposed? The PLO decided to impose a boycott because it regards the Civilian Administration as endangering its existence and its political foundations.

[Question] Still, from your own point of view, when you want to meet these mayors in your capacity as head of the Civilian Administration just as you wanted to meet the mayor of Al-Birah -- what will happen if they do not want to meet you? What are the conclusions?

[Answer] The conclusions are not whether he does or does not want to meet me. The point is whether the authority of Israeli rule is being questioned. Of course, questioning the very authority of Israeli rule -- this authority is legal both by force of law applying to that place and according to international customs -- it is clear that such a question on the very authority of Israel to implement an orderly administration in the territories is inconceivable and that is why the Al-Birah Municipal Council was disbanded.

[Question] And what about the other municipal councils?

[Answer] Since we are not looking for a confrontation, it is not that we are summoning a mayor to put him to the test, and in the case of the Al-Birah Municipal Council the mayor was not summoned in order to put him to the test, as an act of provocation. The dismissal came after the Al-Birah Municipal Council had been announcing and stating in writing for many months that it is boycotting the Civilian Administration -- not particularly the head of the administration, but the very body called Civilian Administration -- and it questions the authority of Israeli rule to implement such an administration.

[Question] Let me rephrase the question. When will you meet a mayor of the territories, let us say either Bassam ash-Shak'ah or Karim Khalaf, to discuss municipal issues? When will you meet him?

[Answer] The schedule will certainly not be set here. However, I set working schedules taking into account the population's needs, work requirements, the urgency of the work and the various topics in question.

[Question] I ask this question because there is an assumption and the word is rife in Judaea and Samaria today that the Civilian Administration is allegedly looking for a way to get rid of those mayors in the territories today who support the PLO. Is this really the policy?

[Answer] Look, there is no doubt that the road we have walked to date proved that we were not seeking a confrontation; that is absolutely clear. During 5 months we have done a big job and we are continuing to do so. It is clear that the requirements of orderly administration and government cannot tolerate a boycott. Of course, we will see to the interests of the population and, on the other hand, we will try to gain the upper hand in the huge struggle ahead of us — that is, the power struggle against the PLO's control over the territories.

This is clear to the PLO and its supporters; hence, the noise and incitement. The PLO has realized that it is struggling for its control over its most important positions of power. Its chance to undermine and torpedo a possible peaceful settlement between the Palestinian Arabs and the State of Israel is founded on imposing its line on Judaea and Samaria in an homogenous manner, hence, the terrorist acts against Arabs and the murderous acts against those deviating from this line. The PLO cannot tolerate or suffer even the slightest deviation from its line. Therefore, the line pursued by the Civilian Administration which tries to hold contacts with the population, to encourage those interested in negotiations rather than in confrontation or a solution of terror which is actually no solution. The PLO does not tolerate it and that is why it instigates, it encourages students to incite, it bribes people just to get youths out on the streets in order to create confrontations, to bring about bloodshed and to inflict wounds which may be unhealable.

The cynical attitude of PLO supporters in the territories to the whole issue of the students may be highlighted by a not so recent story, an incident which happened before the establishment of the Civilian Administration. About 1 and 1/2 years ago the teachers struck over a wage dispute. The strike continued for some time; negotiations began; both teachers and parents exerted pressure on functionaries to promote the negotiations to put an end to the strike and the idleness of the students. They appealed to Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah hoping that he might prod some of his supporters in the negotiations to prevent the idleness imposed on the students. However, Bassam ash-Shak'ah said: What is the matter? Let the children not go to school; it does not matter. There were no classes for 14 years in Algeria. Well, this is a cynical approach, it may be easy for him to say so....

[Question — interrupting] To whom did he tell this?

[Answer] He told this to the parents of students who came to him. The parents told him: Do not prevent the negotiations, do not hinder them, on the contrary, encourage those who support it. It may be easy for him to say these words because his son is studying in America and his other children go to private schools. Be that as it may, this is a cynical or politically fanatic attitude, or both; that for the sake of political fanatic and extremist positions he is ready to sacrifice the interests of the inhabitants.

[Question] I have a question to ask you: That is the strategy -- you described it for us -- but what is the solution to the current situation? What is the solution to the current riots in the territories?

[Answer] The riots are a bad thing. The riots must first and foremost be dealt with on the security level because it is not possible to have a situation whereby cars, children, soldiers, police and Jewish and Arab citizens are hurt. It is clear that a political solution is also required. As I said, the riots are the symptom of a struggle initiated by the PLO to defend its political existence in the field. The PLO took control of very strong positions in the field in the elections to the municipal councils in 1976. Through its own means, the PLO managed to have its supporters take over the large municipal councils....

[Question -- interrupting] Professor Milson, excuse me but that was not the question. My friend Ron asked about the solution to the current situation. We see the pictures on television, we read and hear reports, people are being killed, others are being wounded, people are wounded on our side and killed on the Arab side. There is bloodshed, there is disorder -- that is our impression. The question is what do you or the Civilian Administration intend to do -- if it is capable of doing anything -- to calm down the situation? It seems to me that that question is now being asked by each and every citizen.

[Answer] The question is proper and I will reply to it. In the immediate future, the riots will be dealt with and will be overcome by security forces. The source of the riots -- namely, the PLO's instigation which generates these disturbances -- will have to be overcome through a political and administration effort to uproot the PLO's influence in the territories. As I said, we are in the midst of a political battle, perhaps the most important political battle we have had since 1948, the most important political battle over a possible peace with the Palestinian Arabs. We are not struggling with the Palestinians but we are waging a battle with the PLO. This is not a war against the Palestinians but against the PLO. The PLO wants to depict the issues as if we were waging a war with the Palestinians. As a matter of fact, the PLO is fighting for its political existence.

[Question] Within this war with the PLO, do you or the Civilian Administration contemplate closing the Jordan bridges?

[Answer] The issue of the Jordan bridges and the decision to leave or not leave them open is a political question. Israel's policy to date has been one of open bridges.

[Question] Do you consider it a blessing or a curse?

[Answer] This policy was from the outset intended -- and still is -- to provide for the well-being of the population because the population has many relatives and economic ties on the other side of the bridges and this is mainly a tool serving the interests of the population. It contains certain difficulties -- political and security ones -- for the Israeli authorities. Israel was in the past and is also now willing to pay this price -- security efforts and searches and other difficulties -- to contribute to the well-being of the population.

[Question] Professor Milson, earlier you mentioned that this may be the biggest political battle waged by Israel since 1948.

In my opinion, this is an important declaration, coming from you. Yet, when the riots in the territories are over, when disturbances, stoning incidents, military operations and other actions are over -- what will you reap from the political point of view? What will remain? Will you not despaire of the uprising, of this serious clash between the two sides?

[Answer] I hope not, I am sure it will not be so. My hope and belief -- and it seems to me that this is the assessment of many people working with me or those people observing what is happening in the field -- is that there are many among the Arab population who do not want to follow the PLO's line, a deadend way and one of an endless struggle against Israel. Those Arabs, once they get rid of the PLO's way will enter the road of negotiations.

[Question] Do you really believe you could relieve the PLO pressure on the inhabitants of the West Bank, even through the use of a tough policy?

[Answer] First of all, I am not sure an iron fist should be used. In fact, I am sure this is quite a serious and even exaggerated description of the measures employed by security forces in the territories. But to the question: Yes. I am sure that, moreover, it is imperative for the sake of our future and the future of peace.

[Question] I would like to ask you for a clarification: When you talk about the PLO supporters or the PLO men in the territories -- or in Judaea and Samaria -- whom do you mean? Ilyas Frayj says he supports the PLO and Bassam ash-Shak'ah says he supports the PLO. What is the PLO?

[Answer] Well, first the PLO describes the nature of the PLO. Those who proclaim themselves to be PLO supporters or a PLO member acting in accordance with the PLO line, I would not argue with him. Ilyas Frayj is an interesting case, and I will refer to this later.

As for what the PLO is, I think that it is not redundant to mention even here, with the short time at hand, the following. I have with me here a copy of a periodical called AL-MUSTAQBAL published in Paris in Arabic, which includes an interview with 'Arafat dated January of this year. This is a long interview in which he declared -- and the headline is a quotation from the interview -- that: I have never in my life acted toward a peaceful arrangement. In the body of the interview he says: I do not object to political activity; I oppose a political solution.

This, then, is the PLO. And this is not Habash, or what one may call the extremists factions of the PLO, but the main stream -- that of 'Arafat. Well, then, the PLO opposes any political solution so that irrespective of what the image of the desirable solution for us is -- and the Israeli political spectrum holds a variety of views on the type of permanent solution or arrangement that should be attained -- nevertheless, any kind of solution would demand that there be Palestinian Arabs who will be prepared to enter into a political discussion with us on the shape of the solution.

[Question] Recently you have talked a lot and nurtured the area village leagues. Why are you actually doing this? Do you regard them as an alternative to the PLO in the territories or something that will fill the gap once the PLO disappears?

[Answer] Not a substitute for the PLO. I do not want a substitute for the PLO.

[Question] As a political factor in the territories?

[Answer] Well, the area village leagues enjoy help like any public body organized and aimed at acting toward development and progress. Naturally they hold a special importance to us because they were locally organized and self-initiated, the pioneer of that organizing having been Mustafa Dudin -- a man of courage and political initiative and one who has a wide political experience.

And they grew against the socioeconomic backdrop of deprivation in the villages coupled by a desire by certain persons inside the villages to take care of themselves and to speak for themselves, rather than being dragged by the politicians backed by the PLO -- the PLO supporters and the PLO men themselves -- in a way that to them seemed a dead-end road. They also felt that they might serve as some kind of cannon fodder for the PLO just as their brethren or their forefathers were the victims of the squads during the 1930's.

[Question] The former commander of Judaea and Samaria, Reserve Maj Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, has called them puppets shielded by the border police. Do you think a man of such experience could be making a mistake?

[Answer] I did not hear what was said, nor do I want to refer to remarks that may have been made. I read that some things were said in a closed forum. I did not hear them in context, and I would therefore prefer not to refer to them.

[Question] And you also do not believe they are puppets?

[Answer] Oh, definitely not, or else I would not have said what I did about their importance when I answered an earlier question.

[Question] Professor Milson, the IDF is training those people. How many members of the area village leagues have been trained by the IDF? How much arms were they given?

[Answer] As for quantities, naturally you will not expect me to give you an answer here. These are people whose lives were seriously threatened, some of them were murdered. They requested arms for self-defense and were indeed provided with arms by the IDF to defend themselves.

[Question] Could you not be more specific on this?

[Answer] I will not detail the quantity of arms.

[Question] How about the number of people being trained?

[Answer] Nor will I specify the number of trainees.

[Question] Are there hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands?

[Answer] No, it is not tens of thousands, but I will not specify the number. What counts is not the number but the principle that here people rose to defend themselves and these arms, of course, are being given and were requested for a specific purpose: self-defense.

[Question] Professor Milson, on 9 March the Jordanian Government headed by Mudar Badran decreed capital punishment to the supporters of the area village leagues fostered by Israel. What is the political lesson that should be drawn from this?

[Answer] There are a number of political conclusions. Clearly this poses a serious threat and heavy pressure on the members of the area village leagues -- a very serious threat both to lives and to property. What is interesting is that those leagues will not crumble, which is certainly a meritorious notation for those who head them and those who support them in the villages themselves. It is a serious threat resulting from the fact that Jordan is presently coordinating its positions on the Palestinian issue with the PLO.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] There exists the coordinating committee, the joint Jordanian-PLO committee that has been active since the Baghdad conference.

[Question] But why is Jordan suddenly cooperating so intensively with the PLO? It has never done this before, it has never assumed the leadership in this struggle?

[Answer] In this context one must distinguish between political cooperation in the field of hostile terrorist activity or aid to the terrorists. What we are talking about right now is not aid to the terrorists, on which issue as we all know Jordan was rather cautious for quite an extensive period of time. Politically, ever since the Camp David accords and as of the Baghdad conference, Jordan has been coordinating its views and moves with the PLO and the PLO positions have a strong influence on what the Jordanians do. Of course, there is also Saudi pressure and Saudi influence. No doubt these all had an impact.

[Question] Let us try to return to the reality of today, Professor Milson. It is to be assumed that the IDF will ultimately enforce law and order in Judaea and Samaria. What will happen later? Will we be able to receive a territory in which it will really be possible to realize the autonomy?

[Answer] Autonomy is not implemented on a territory empty of people. In order for the autonomy plan to materialize in accordance with the Camp David accords -- and this is what we are talking about as the Camp David accords stipulate an autonomy founded on the fact that there are people who recognize Israel and conduct peace negotiations with it or strive toward such negotiations and who agree with the autonomy idea. I believe that after the PLO influence or control over the main power centers is uprooted or weakened it will indeed be possible to advance negotiations on the continued implementation of Camp David.

[Question] Supposing the PLO's influence is not weakened and we are not able to find Palestinian leaders who will cooperate. Will you advocate the application of Israeli law to the territories?

[Answer] This is the political question and I do not find it appropriate to answer it.

[Question] Professor Milson, I would like to proceed to another issue being discussed at least in the Israeli press. You are an expert on Arabic literature. This is your academic speciality and you are a teacher of Arabic literature at Hebrew University when not occupying the present post. How do you explain to yourself and perhaps also to us that there are books that are forbidden from being imported or sold in Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] I will answer the question, but before I do let me make it clear that the field of censorship is not one for which I am responsible and that I am likewise not in charge of it or deal with it.

[Question] I am only asking this because you may be more of an expert on books than on censorship.

[Answer] I know what you are aiming at, because recently articles have been published with slanderous remarks on the stupidity and wickedness of the people of the book or its representatives.

[Question] Or on the fact that its character has been presented in a distorted fashion.

[Answer] Or on a distorted portrait of the people of the book. The article says that books like "The Merchant of Venice" by Shakespeare, "The White Nile and the Blue Nile" by (Alan Moorehead) as well as books by (Tawfiq al-Hakim) and (Najib Mahfuz) -- two Egyptian writers of whose writings I am particularly fond -- and many more have been banned from sale or distribution in the territories -- Judaea and Samaria. But the truth is that none of these books mentioned in those articles spewing forth libel and slander at the people of the book is either banned from sale or distribution in Judaea, Samaria or Gaza. These things are simply not true. The libel and slander were made on the basis of facts that are not true facts.

[Question] Allow me to ask you a personal question. Is it possible to import and read in the West Bank Yig'al Alon's book "Spectrum of Fighters"?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] What about Moshe Sharet's diary?

[Answer] Let me answer. There is censorship. I said I was not in charge of it, but since the question was asked, I wish to correct a trifle of the damage caused by those slanderous remarks. First of all, the mistake must be eradicated. The libellous and slanderous remarks are made in Israel, immediately to be copied by the New York TIMES and other newspapers abroad, to make us all blush over the kinds of foolish and cruel deeds we are committing in forbidding these books from being circulated. Incidentally, Sartre, too was on that list as well as Dryden. Well, all this is simply not true.

Instead of having those who circulated wrong information -- an error that is both misleading and harmful -- come and admit that they made a mistake, misinformed and caused harm and slandered...

[Question, interrupting] We only have a short time left.

[Answer] This is more than just an error. The slanderous remarks based on false facts caused harm. It is first necessary to say that this is not true, and these books are allowed for sale and distribution.

[Question] The very books you mentioned?

[Answer] The same books I mentioned, which are the reason why the slanderous and libellous remarks were directed at the people of the book.

Now for the censorship. There is censorship. I am not in charge of it but I know that it outlaws books. To cite an example -- and only as an illustration -- I brought a number of books banned by the censorship. One is called: "Stop This Cancer" -- the cancer being the people of Israel. Another is called: "The World Jewry and Its Continuous Fight with Christianity." Another book is "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" in whose forword the translator added something specially aimed at the Arab reader -- namely: Save this copy very carefully, for the Jews strive to eliminate this book as it uncovers their scheming.

Now, the following are the books that are banned -- and there are other books, too. [as heard] You mentioned "the Spectrum of Fighters" by Yig'al Alon: According to information I have, the book was not banned because the book is bad, God forbid. Naturally it is not. But it is because this Arabic translation of it also includes an antiSemitic and anti-Israeli introduction for which it was banned. So one must be careful here. Just as Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" is not banned, so an antiSemitic edition of a children's adaptation of a book aimed at educating them to follow the precepts of hatred for the Jew from a very young age is banned. However, it is clear to me that anyone who wants to deal with this seriously should not take the books that have not been banned -- such as (Alan Morehead) and (Najib Mahfuz) or (Tawfiq al-Hakim) and Shakespeare, who are not banned -- but rather he should take the list of banned books and ask the censor what were the criteria for banning them.

[Question] Professor Milson, do you see any good coming out of this censorship, which certainly adds nothing to improving Israel's image, when one can tune in every regional radio station and when it is possible to get hostile television stations? What is the point of this?

[Answer] Look, it seems to me that after I had explained that I am not entrusted with or authorized to judge this, the question is not exactly directed at the right party.

Still, I will refer to it and say that I see no moral justification for me to recommend that "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" in an Arabic translation should be distributed. I would not regard this as a moral deed by myself if I were to recommend that "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" in Arabic be distributed in Judaea and Samaria.

[Question] Our time is running short -- actually it is already over. I just wanted to address one personal question to you. How do you live with this job, being a man who has come from the university and the chair and has to face such difficult scenes and rather difficult events in the last few days. What do you think of the job you have undertaken?

[Answer] It is not such an easy job. I think it is my duty to fulfill it. I believe it is important. After I have said how I valued the nature of this vital struggle for the future of our national existence and for the future chance to hold peace negotiations with the Palestinian Arabs, I think it is pretty clear how I view my job.

[Ahime'ir] I thank you very much, Professor Menahem Milson. With this we end the broadcast. I also wish to thank my colleagues Rafiq Halabi and Ron Ben-Yishay, and to the viewers at home, good evening.

UNIFIL SPOKESMAN VIEWS LEBANON OVERFLIGHTS

TA231951 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1945 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Metulla, 23 Mar -- UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel announced today that in the last few days Israeli helicopters overflew various areas of the southern sector of southern Lebanon and Tyre. According to him, antiaircraft fire was directed at them. In the last few days, the spokesman announced, fire was directed from Ar-Rashidiyah at Israeli warships anchoring opposite southern Lebanon coasts, no fire was returned.

LIBYA

ENVOY'S CLAIM OF LIBYAN PRESENCE IN GHANA DENIED

LD242330 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Lagos, 24 Mar (JANA) -- Alhaji Youssif Patty, Ghanaian high commissioner in Lagos during the era of deposed President Limann, alleged there were Libyan military personnel at Kotoka international airport, the Accra radio building and Burma Camp.

Those empty allegations clearly show that the former Ghanaian official is one of the agent elements exposed by the Ghanaian people and deprived of their position and their privileges. It is also indicative of his treachery and his hostility toward the Libyan Arab people and the Ghanaian people, who are united in the struggle against imperialism and reaction.

The allegations ofthe escaped Ghanaian high commissioner are fabrications aimed at serving sinister objectives to destroy the relations of struggle between the jamahiriyah and Ghana.

AL-'UBAYDI RECEIVES CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER

LD242032 Tripoli JANA in English 1633 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Mar (JANA) -- Mr 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the secretary of the people's committee of the foreign liaison affairs, this morning met with Mr Nikolaos Rolandhis, the Cypriot foreign minister.

The meeting discussed enhancing and promoting cooperation between Cyprus and the jamahiriyah and issues of common interests. The Cypriot official arrived in the jamahiriyah yesterday.

Nicosia Report

NC241905 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1730 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Rolandhis, currently in Tripoli, Libya, met today with the secretary of the general people's committee for foreign liason, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi. They discussed the Cyprus problem and bilateral relations, with special emphasis on trade exchanges.

In connection with the Cyprus problem, Al-'Ubaydi reaffirmed his country's support for a solution that will safeguard the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, unity and nonalignment of the Republic of Cyprus. On trade exchanges, it was agreed in principle that a Cypriot trade delegation will visit Libya during the first 2 weeks of April to definitely resolve all existing issues.

During their meeting, Rolandhis and Al-'Ubaydi also discussed the Middle East, African questions, the situation in the eastern Mediterranean and other international issues within the framework of the cooperation between the two countries in the nonaligned movement.

Al-'Ubaydi accepted an invitation to visit Cyprus. The date of the visit will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

MOROCCO

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON TUNISIAN OFFICIAL'S VISIT

LD192202 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Joint communique issued in Rabat and Tunisia on 19 March on the visit of Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali to Morocco]

[Text] Within the framework of the fraternal relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Tunisia and the annual exchanges of visits between them, the Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco 17-19 March at the official invitation of Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid.

Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali was received in audience by King Hassan II to whom he conveyed a message from his brother the grand struggle Habib Bourguiba. He also conveyed to his majesty the feelings of cordiality, love and admiration the Tunisian fraternal people hold the Moroccan people. He also listened to the wise views of his majesty on matters of interest to the Arab Maghreb, the Arab world and Africa in particular and international matters in general and exchanged views with his majesty on these matters.

During the visit, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid held official talks, in an atmosphere of complete fraternity and understanding, on relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to develop and bolster them. The talks also covered developments in Arab, African and international issues. The talks affirmed the identity of views on most of the issues discussed.

On the question of bilateral relations, the progress made by the two countries on the road of cooperation was evaluated with a view to overcoming any difficulties and obstacles and to making plans for the future.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the progress made during the past 2 years and at the new dynamism and continued activity prevailing in various fields particularly culture, youth and trade. The results of these activities have been positive.

The two sides praised the progress made in bilateral relations and the constructive fraternal spirit which characterizes cooperation between the two fraternal countries. They affirmed their determination to continue dialogue and consultations and to go forward with firm, steady steps on this road representing a practical way to constructive integral cooperation to which the peoples of the greater Arab Maghreb aspire and which could act as a model for dealings among countries of the Arab nation.

The two sides agreed to hold periodic meetings on a political level in order to coordinate stands at international and regional conferences.

During the visit, the following were signed:

1) An agreement for cooperation in the information field.
2) An agreement on the establishment of a Tunisian-Moroccan youth agency.
3) An agreement for cooperation in agriculture and an executive program for 1982-83.
4) An executive program for 1982-83 for cooperation in higher education.
5) An agreement setting up two feasibility companies [sharikatyn dirasiyatiyn] in Tunisia and Morocco in the field of textiles.
6) An agreement setting up a plant in Morocco for the production of [word indistinct]
7) An agreement on setting up a plant in Tunisia for the production of wood processing machinery.

Agreements also have been reached:

1) To intensify cooperation and exchange knowledge in mining and energy.
2) On the principle of granting additional funds to citizens from both countries to, promote tourism between them.
3) To take all necessary measures to facilitate trade exchange and industrial cooperation between the two countries.
4) To bolster and enchance cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the agreement on the resident of one country's citizens in the other.
5) To summon a meeting of the joint Tunisian-Moroccan plenary committee in October 1982.

The two sides expressed their determination to continue to exert their efforts to create favorable conditions for building the edifice of the greater Arab Maghreb on the basis of fraternity, cooperation, solidarity, mutual respect, consideration for the basic choices of each country, common religion, common language and common culture -- all this out of loyalty to the sacrifices offered by past generations and their common struggle to lay the foundations of the greater Arab Maghreb.

The Tunisian side reiterated it appreciation of the initiative made by King Hassan II with regard to holding a plebscite on the Sahara. It expressed its hope that a new atmosphere will be created which will restore to the region its calm, reassurance and security.

The two sides expressed their concern over the attitude of the European Economic Community which has repeatedly taken protective measures despite agreements between it and both Morocco and Tunisia in cooperation and trade. They affirmed the need for continued consultations between the two sides with a view to unifying the two countries' stands toward the European economic community particularly with regard to confronting the negative repercussions of the expansion of the European Common Market.

The two sides discussed the in Arab situation. They affirmed their determination to continue efforts to consolidate Arab solidarity and to create favorable conditions for the resumption of the 12th Arab summit conference in the Kingdom of Morocco and for ensuring its full success so that the Arab nation will succeed in unifying its ranks and thereby present to the world an Arab stand that will guarantee the established rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination, the establishment of their independent state on their national territory and the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem.

The two sides expressed their hope that the postponement of the summit conference has provided an opportunity for all to make a serious evalutation and study of matters, thus enabling the resumption of the conference to provide an opportunity for the adoption of clear and frank stands.

The two sides affirmed their continued support for the struggling people of Palestine led by the PLO, sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, so that the Palestinians will attain their legitimate demands in freedom, independence and dignity.

The two sides expressed their admiration for and pride in the heroic resistance put up by the Palestinian people inside the occupied territory. They affirmed their determination to continue to bolster their steadfastness and resist all oppressive Israeli measures.

The two sides reiterated their condemnation of the Zionist entity's annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. In this regard, the Tunisian side praised the efforts exerted by the Jerusalem committee under the chairmanship of King Hassan II for the sake of protecting the holy city and the preservation of its Islamic and Arabic features and true character.

The two sides expressed their concern over the situation in southern Lebanon, their full support for the Lebanese Government and their constant care for Lebanon's independence and unity.

The two sides expressed their extreme sorrow at the continued war between Iraq and Iran, two Muslim countries, and expressed their hope for a response to the efforts and repeated calls to end the fighting and to solve the conflict through negotiations on the basis of the principles of international law.

With regard to the situation in the African Continent, the two sides expressed their concern over conditions within the OAU. They affirmed their determination on the basis of respect for legitimacy and adherence to the charter.

The two sides reiterated their absolute support for the peoples of Namibia and South Africa in their struggle against imperialism and racism.

The two sides reviewed the situation in the Islamic world. They expressed their concern over foreign interference in Afghanistan, a Muslim country and member of the Nonaligned Movement. They affirmed their support for the Afghan Muslim people and reiterated their hopes for a peaceful solution that will guarantee for the Afghan people the freedom to choose the regime they want.

The two sides touched on the situation in the Mediterranean and affirmed their determination to continue work to bolster codperation and understanding among the countries of the region and their desire to see the Mediterranean transformed into a lake of seucrity and peace away from all foreign interference.

The two sides also discussed the international economic situation. They affirmed their determination to work for the establishment of a new, more equitable and just economic world system, taking into consideration the legitimate interests of the developing countries.

They reaffirmed their faith in Arab-African cooperation and the need to bolster and develop it. They also strongly expressed their desire to bolster Arab-European dialogue.

During the visit, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali saw the progress and prosperity achieved by the Moroccan people in all political, economic, social and cultural fields under the wise leadership of King Hassan II. He expressed his appreciation and admiration for these achievements. He also expressed his utmost gratitude for the special attention showed to him by King Hassan II and for the hospitality he and the accompanying delegation received -- hospitality reflecting the depth of the true fraternal relations binding the Tunisian and Moroccan peoples together and constantly enriched by the two great leaders King Hassan II of Morocco and the grand struggler Habib Bourguiba, president of the Republic of Tunisia.

Mohamed Mzali expressed his gratitude and fraternal feelings and those of his wife to Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid and his wife and invited him to pay an official visit to the Republic of Tunisia. The invitation was accepted with gratitude and a date will be fixed later.

Mzali Departs 19 Mar

LD192034 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali this evening left Mohamed V International Airport in Casablanca for home at the end of his 3-day official visit to Morocco.

He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Maati Bouabid, Minister of State for Cooperation Mahjoubi Aherdan, Justice Minister Moulay Moustapha Alaoui, Commerce, Industry and Tourism Minister Azzedine Gessous, Secretary of State for Administrative Affairs Mohamed Togani, Secretary of State for Youth and Sports, Abdellatif Semlali, the governor of Greater Casablanca, the Tunisian ambassador to Rabat, the Moroccan ambassador to Tunisia, a number of Arab diplomats and members of the mission of honor.

Before leaving, Mohamed Mzali made a statement to radio and television at the airport: [Begin recording] I am happy with the positive results we have achieved in fruitful, true cooperation between Tunisia and Morocco in numerous fields, such as economy, trade, joint enterprise and education. We have decided to standardize programs and curricula in history, geography, mathematics, sports and youth affairs. [end recording]

SUDAN

MIRGHANI DENOUNCES ISRAELI MEASURES IN WEST BANK

JN251110 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Mar (SUNA) -- Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani said that the arbitrary measures by the Israeli authorities against the chiefs of the West Bank municipalities reveal the Zionist plot that aims at liquidating the Arab institutions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mirghani hailed the bravery and heroism of the Palestinian people in the face of the Israeli suppression and persecution. "The Sudan strongly supports the struggle of the Palestinian people and sternly denounces the suppressive policy of the Zionist enemy in the Western Bank and Gaza", Mirghani added.

He called on the Islamic and Arab countries to support the struggle of the Palestinians and called on world society to take actions that would prevent Israel from carrying out its extensive designs. He said the Arab countries in this conjunction should cast away their differences and unite in one front to secure the rights of the Palestinian people.

MINISTER EXPLAINS PARIS DEBT RESCHEDULING

EA242246 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Ibrahim Mun'im Mansur, minister of finance and economic planning, told SUNA that the recent meeting of the Paris club praised the efforts of the Sudanese Government to achieve an internal balance, to create a suitable climate for production, to stimulate development, to redevelop various projects to rectify production dealings with the irrigated agriculture sector, to reconsider the marketing of cotton and other products in order to achieve adequate revenue for the producers and to reform industrial sector enterprises as independent productive units.

Ibrahim Mun'im Mansur added that Sudan explained to the Paris club its intention to discharge its foreign commitments and to open up new channels for dealings with various foreign credit agencies. It asked the group to postpone Sudan's payment of its debts accrued during the second half of 1981 by a 5-year grace period. An agreement was signed between Sudan and the Paris club on the rescheduling of Sudan's debts to these states. Bilateral negotiations with each state will begin immediately in order to conclude an agreement for rescheduling the debts owed by Sudan.

The minister explained that during his visit to Qatar and Abu Dhabi he delivered to the heads of these sisterly states two written messages from the president concerning the course of economic relations between them and Sudan.

ETHIOPIA

COPWE OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR HANOI CONGRESS

EA242144 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Comrade Kassaye Aragaw, member of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia [COPWE] Central Committee and COPWE representative for Gojam region, left Addis Ababa for Hanoi today to attend the Fifth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Comrade Kassaye, who is leading a two-man delegation, will attend the congress to be held from 27-30 March at the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam to the COPWE Central Committee.

UGANDA

OBOTE ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT ON POLICY ISSUES

EA250158 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The second session of Parliament opened yesterday. In his communication from the chair, the president, Dr Apollo Milton Obote, gave an extensive analysis of the state of the republic and defined government policy as increased production in a stable and secure environment.

On political and economic fields, the president reaffirmed that the resolve of Parliament to face the challenges of lifting the nation out of the depths of poverty and misery remains. He called upon MPS and all Ugandans to join in this noble crusade.

The president reiterated that the government is committed to the ballot and totally rejects the gun as a means of government. He reported to Parliament the attack on one of the barracks in Kampala in late February and described the attackers as bandits who would wish to overthrow the elected government and the Parliament by acts of violence.

The president expressed disappointment at some people who were once in government after liberation and pretended to be against the rule of terror, guns and killings, but have now joined hands with the same men who sustained the dictatorial regime of murder. He also noted with remorse the silence and lack of concern on the part of the opposition in the face of these dastardly acts. He challenged the opposition leadership to explain the meaning of that silence.

He further challenged the leadership of the DP [Democratic Party] to tell the nation whether they accept the verdict of the 1980 elections as a valid choice of the electorate. He said that this ambiguous and ambivalent position of the DP has led to irritation and disenchantment of a large section of the DP part membership. He went on to say that it is no wonder that seven MPS and prominent leaders of the DP decided to leave the DP and join the UPC [Uganda Peoples Congress] party. The president cautioned the DP that continued lack of seriousness and concern on grave and important national issues will lead to inevitable dwindling of their membership. He however reiterated the stand of UPC and that government has no intention whatsoever to make Uganda a one-party state by legislation, coercion, allurement or extralegal measures.

In the economic field, the president reviewed the performance of the economy since the party came into government and especially since the last budget in June 1981. He traced the healthy trend in all sectors, including increased production and pointed out that the gross domestic product had gone up by 7.5 percent in 1981, as compared to the 1980 level. This was mainly due to increased production in the agricultural sector. He noted with satisfaction the increased availability of food and other commodities and the downward trend of prices of most consumer goods, cost of living indices and inflation as a whole.

The president was pleased to report to the house that the budget was working extremely well and is rapidly transforming the nature of the national economy and declining speculative magendo [black market] trends to honest production and investment.

The president then outlined a definitive program for progress to recovery which is to cover 2 years, starting July 1982 and ending June 1984. He disclosed that there are 80 projects in the agricultural sector, projects to cover the rehabilitation of the major cash export crops as well as to achieve self-sufficiency in food.

The projects are also to give a firm foundation for the development of agricultural implements and inputs, such as ox-drawn equipment and revamping of the seed multiplication industry. The program also covers the rehabilitation and extension of the livestock industry, fisheries and poultry. Other projects cover the industrial sector, tourism, cooperatives provision of hydroelectricity to remote towns and rehabilitation of roads.

In the social service sector, the program is to cover integrated education, medical services, radio broadcasting systems, water supply and reconstruction of Maska, Mbarara and Arua towns. The program is estimated to cost 51 billion Uganda shillings.

To complement our own resources the government has arranged with the World Bank to convene a consultation group meeting in Paris in mid-May this year.

The president announced some of the aspects which will be covered in the legislative program. These include the amendment of 1964 foreign investment protection act, to provide more meaningful and better protection for all foreign investors; (?national corporation) act; export promotion council act of 1969; and the factories act of 1964. New bills to be debated in the comming session include the abondoned properties, social security fund, national reinsurance corporation and national bureau of standards.

On new currency, the president assured the nation that the new and old notes are to run concurrently and are equal in value. The reason for government's decision on this policy was to avoid people being inconvenienced, cheated and losing their hard earned savings through corruption, as was the case in 1973 and 1979.

The president announced that as from next year, foreign exchange will not be available for students pursuing courses abroad which are available in Uganda.

On security, the president reiterated that the government is determined to create a stable and secure environment and asked members of the opposition to support him. He pointed out that although government has been forced from time to time to use the army to perform police duties, it remains government's policy and determination to return the army to the barracks.

The president informed the house on the training programs for both police and army, designed to enable the two security forces to perform their roles efficiently.

The president's speech was well received and frequently interrupted with applause from both sides of the house. Later, the speaker of the National Assembly hosted a reception in honor of the president and MPS in parliamentary gardens.

CHAD

OAU'S DAWIT: 30 JUN DEADLINE NOT IMPERATIVE

AB241906 Paris AFP in French 1745 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 24 Mar (AFP) -- "The OAU resolutions are not imposed on the Chadian Government. They are suggestions." This statement was made by Gebre Egziaber Dawit, OAU secretary general's special representative in Chad, on radio France-Inter.

Dawit added that until a solution is found to the Chadian problem, the OAU will continue to support the Chadian Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], a legitimate government on which the OAU will not impose anything.

Edem Kodjo's special representative to Chad pointed out that the deadline set for 30 June by the OAU minisummit held last February in Nairobi for the withdrawal of the OAU peace force was not an "imperative." Dawit, who added that the OAU hopes that through "dialogue" it will find a settlement, expressed the view that the deadline can be extended.

Nigeria, Zaire and Senegal, who have provided troops, have not yet expressed their desire to withdraw their contingents on 30 June. In this regard, Dawit reiterated that consultations are underway with some countries likely to provide contingents for Chad because the five battalions provided by Nigeria, Zaire and Senegal are insufficient.

Lastly, Dawit stated that with the GUNT's consent, the OAU secretary general has sent envoys to the United Nations to discuss the financial aspects of the presence of the inter-African force in Chad.

GOUKOUNI RETURNS TO NDJAMENA AFTER 1-MONTH TRIP

AB241903 Paris AFP in French 1806 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 24 Mar (AFP) -- The president of the Transitional National Union Government, Goukouni Queddei, returned to Ndjamena on Tuesday afternoon at the end of a month's visit to the central and eastern parts of the country, including Salal, Goss, Mongo and Ati.

During his long stay in Ati, the garrison town where the government units as well as the Zairian and Nigerian detachments of the inter-African peacekeeping force are concentrated, the GUNT president is alleged to have personally participated in the plans for a counteroffensive on Oum Hadjer, which is 170 km further east and is occupied by Hissein Habre's FAN.

According to reliable sources, the last of these "counteroffensives" apparently took place without the participation of the Chadian Armed Forces (FAT) of Vice President Abdel Kader Kamougue Wadal, which were "unhappy" about losing several men during earlier battles for control of Oum Hadjer on 21 February and also about what they consider to be the "unfair" distribution of military equipment.

During a press conference given recently in Ndjamena, Vice President Kamougue deplored the "bad" equipment of the FAT, stressing that the GUNT should have more "faith" in them.

The disengagement of the FAT on the battleground comes at a time of "calm likely to lead to general demobilization" on the eastern "front," observers think.

FACTION LEADER IDRISS DISMISSED FROM MPLT

AB241632 Paris AFP in French 1517 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Lagos, 24 Mar (AFP) -- The leader of one of the "factions" of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Chad (MPLT), Batram Adoum Idriss, has been dismissed from the movement, one of the "founders" of the MPLT told AFP on Wednesday.

Aboussalah Ibrahim, who introduced himself as "founder" of the movement, said Idriss, who until now was chairman of one of the MPLT factions, "has been dismissed from his post."

It is to be recalled that Aboubakar Abderahmane is also fighting for the chairmanship of the MPLT. The [word indistinct] of the militants belonging to this movement are currently living in exile in Maiduguri, northeastern Nigeria, a town very near the Chadian border.

CONGO

GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXPLOSION 20 MAR

AB241937 Paris AFP in French 1648 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Paris, 24 Mar (AFP) -- The explosion last Saturday in a Brazzaville movie theater was actually an "attack that caused 15 deaths," an anonymous caller told AFP in a telephone conversation, while claiming to belong to the "Congolese armed patriotic group," so far unknown, which is claiming responsibility.

On Sunday, Congolese radio announced that five persons had been killed and several others wounded during an explosion in a move theater in the Poto-Poto area on the outskirts of Brazzaville, while referring to testimonies that the tragedy had been caused by a short circuit.

The "Congolese armed patriotic group," added the anonymous caller, is calling for an explanation of the assassination, on 19 March 1977, of former head of state Marien Ngouabi and the imprisonment of Gen Joachim Yhombi-Opango, the president overthrown in February 1979 for "high treason."

GABON

SFRY PRESIDENT LEAVES LIBREVILLE FOR LAGOS

AB241230 Paris AFP in French 1145 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Libreville, 24 Mar (AFP) -- President of SFRY Sergej Kriagher left Libreville Wednesday morning for Lagos at the end of his 2-day visit to Gabon.

Kraigher was seen off by President Omar Bongo, Prime Minister Leon Mebiame, as well as members of government and of the Gabonese Democratic Party.

During this visit, the Yugoslav president had two rounds of talks with his Gabonese host. Their talks were mainly on the strengthening of bilateral cooperation and on how to make the Nonaligned Movement more dynamic.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU PRESIDES OVER CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION

AB240950 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The fourth session of the MPR Central Committee, presided over by head of state Mobutu Sese Seko, ended in Kinshasa yesterday. It was followed by the issuing of a final communique read by citizen Kithima Bin Ramazani, permanent secretary of the Central Committee.

The communique indicates that the committee made three state decisions concerning institutions of higher learning. The first concerns the drafting of students, the second concerns their stipends, the third is on their training.

On the disciplinary side, the Central Committee expelled 11 people from the party, including a member of the Central Committee. They will stand trial.

The Central Committee also defined guidelines for the preparation of the third ordinary congress. The seventh session will be held in September and will be preceeded by an extraordinary session next June, at which candidates for the next legislative elections will be examined.

Support Exhorted

AB241911 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the wake of the deliberations of the fourth session of the MPR Central Committee, one can make the following remark: The MPR is and will remain the only legal institution, the only source of legal power in the Republic of Zaire. It is against this background that one must understand and receive the latest decisions made by the Central Committee a few months before its next extraordinary session scheduled to be held in June to discuss elections.

In the same line, one must keep in mind the lessons and contents of the speech delibered by the president on 15 March 1982. In that speech, the MPR stance on the call for a multiparty system was clearly stated. Also, one must always bear in mind the second warning issued by the MPR founder to obstinate renegades who once championed a vague type of democracy and tried to sow restlessness and confusion in the minds of militants who highly appreciate the peace and unity restored all over the country by the Mobotu revolution.

So, as the elections and the third ordinary congress of the MPR draw nearer and after Zaire's democratic rules have been clearly (?laid down), the highest interest of the national community lies in unity and solidarity within one party and around a single leader within one nation.

In the line of the fourth ordinary session of the MPR conception, inspiration, orientation and decision making organ, we must henceforth support the MPR founder and president in his efforts toward national redress and we must positively respond to the appeal for vigilance made yesterday by the Central Committee in order to unmask subversive agents.

GHANA

RAWLINGS SAYS WARTIME ECONOMY TO BE INSTITUTED

AB241427 Accra Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpts] We begin with the victory story of the national football team, the Black Stars, who returned to Accra last night after winning the 13th African Cup of Nations competition in Libya. Yaw Asare Darku reports on the heroic welcome accorded the Stars:

After about 3 hours anxious waiting by the welcoming crowd, the presidential jet, carrying the team, eventually showed up in the air escorted by two air force fighter planes. It was smiles, cheers and jubilant waving from people [words indistinct] and those in their homes all the way to the Gonda Barracks where the team was welcomed by Flight Lieutenant Rawlings and a large number of soldiers. Before speaking, the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] chairman, in his usual manner, invited others to express their views about the victory.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings congratulated the Stars on winning what he described as a match against a very solid revolutionary country like Libya:

[Begin recording] I said if they should win, if they should lose, we would understand because against the Libyans in a revolutionary mood, it would not be an easy match. Despite that, they won and for that, I would like to say once again that you have my salute and you have shown us the way and that we can make sacrifices without asking for promises, without asking for immediate rewards and without asking for privileges. The reward will lie in the long-term benefits. We have to shed our blood, sweat and tears for now.

Let me take this opportunity to inform you, ladies and gentlemen, that the kind of economy we have been used to in this country can be equated to a peacetime type of economy which has always led to instability — hungry mouths anyway. Things are so serious now that we are going to work out a new program which will be comparable to a kind of economic situation that would prevail in a wartime. A whole lot of deployment will have to take place. A whole lot of us who may be earning salaries may have to find ourselves involved in other kinds of activities. Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you are with me. [shouts of approval] And are we prepared for the sacrifices? [shouts of "Yes! Yes!"]

SECOND CONSIGNMENT OF LIBYAN OIL ARRIVES

AB241857 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The second and the last consignment of the Libyan crude oil gift to Ghana has been discharged at the Tema harbor. The second consignment, which is 40 metric tons, was discharged by the largest ever tanker to berth at the Tema port, (Kakisi), a Greek vessel. The first consignment of the crude oil gift to Ghana by Libya was discharged at Tema last Friday. The total amount of crude oil donated is 500,000 barrels worth $20 million.

ATIM LEAVES FOR TOUR OF EAST EUROPE, CUBA

AB242051 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] A five-man good will delegation led by Mr Chris Atim, member of the Provisional National Defense Council, left Accra today for a tour of East European countries. The tour is at the invitation of the governments of those countries. Countries the delegation is visiting include the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, the GDR and Cuba. The delegation will discuss, among other subjects, matters relating to some economic projects initiated during the first republic but were abandoned after the coup in 1966.

ASAMOAH MEETS WITH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION

AB191800 Accra International Service in English 1630 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] A two-man delegation from Vietnam is in Accra with a special message of fraternal greetings from President Nguyen Huu Tho to the chairman of the PNDC, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings. In the discussions with the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, the leader of the delegation, (Vo Hac Dong), expressed the support and solidarity of the government and people of Vietnam to the people of Ghana in their struggle to rebuild the country. He said Vietnam, with her 30 years of revolutionary struggle, will continue to stand solidly behind Ghana's revolutionary efforts. Dr Asamoah said he is glad that the Vietnamese Government had got in touch with Ghana at a time when Ghanaians are engaged in a revolution to rebuild the country. He said Ghana had, for years, followed with great interest and sympathy the s-ruggle of the people of Vietnam against imperialism and oppression and is impressed with the heroic victory of that country over the reactionary forces. Dr Asamoah said with pleasure that after the long history of struggle, Vietnam is now engaged in a national reconstruction program and desires to live in peace with her neighbors. He told the delegation that Ghana welcomes all its efforts to secure a place in Southeast Asia. The delegation later held discussions with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on matters of mutual interest.

GUINEA

PRESIDENT RECEIVES EGYPT'S BUTRUS GHALI 23 MAR

AB241148 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Our brother Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, who arrived in our capital this morning, was received late this afternoon by President Ahmed Sekou Toure, head of state and supreme leader of the revolution.

Those present at the audience were: Dr Lansana Beavogui, member of the National Political Bureau [NPB] and prime minister; Damantang Camara, member of the NPB and speaker of the People's National Assembly; Dr Abdoulaye Toure, member of the NPB and minister of foreign affairs; Mamady Keita, member of the NPB and minister of higher education and scientific research; Senainon Behanzin, secretary of the NPB and minister of agro-pastoral farms and agricultural cooperatives; Mamadou Tounkara, ambassador to Egypt, and Adrame Bangoura, chief of protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Egyptian minister of state, who was bearer of a message from President Husni Mubarak to the supreme leader of the revolution, was accompanied by the Egyptian ambassador to our country.

MENA Report

NC242142 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2048 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Conakry, 24 Mar (MENA) -- The minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, communicated to Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure a message from President MuhammadHusni Mubarak during the official talks held in Conakry today between the Egyptian and Guinean sides under the chairmanship of President Sekou Toure and Dr Ghali.

During the discussions, the Guinean president expressed his appreciation of the Egyptian peace efforts. The two sides then dealt with the division threatening the African Continent, represented by the OAU, in the wake of the recent ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa. President Sekou Toure presented specific proposals in this connection and asked Dr Ghali to communicate them to President Husni Mubarak.

The discussions revealed complete agreement between Egypt and Guinea on the need to preserve the unity of the African Continent and to confront resolutely any attempt to fragment or split it.

NIGERIA

YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON 4-DAY VISIT

AB241245 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The president of the SFRY, Sergej Kraigher, arrived in Lagos today at the start of a 4-day visit to the country. President Kraigher was met at Murtala Mohammed Airport by President Shehu Shagari; the vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme; and the president of the Senate, Dr Joseph Wayas, as well as other top government officials and members of the Yugoslav community in Nigeria. Shortly after arrival, the president inspected a guard of honor mounted by a detachment of the Nigerian Army. Mr Kraigher is expected to hold bilateral talks with President Shehu Shagari on areas of cooperation between the two countries later today. He is also expected to visit the Cross River State and other places of interest in the country.

Presidential Talks

AB242201 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Nigeria and Yugoslavia today held talks on the strengthening of their bilateral relations in a number of fields. The talks started at State House, Ribaudi Road, shortly after the arrival of President Sergej Kraigher in Lagos on a 4-day state visit to Nigeria.

At the opening session, President Shehu Shagari recalled his state visit to Yugoslavia in June last year and remarked that the talks held during the period were meaningful and rewarding to the two countries. He said there has been a growing field of economic collaboration between the two countries through which the transfer of technology could be made possible. President Shagari remarked that Nigeria has an attractive market for Yugoslavia and suggested regular sessions of the joint economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries. The president observed that Nigeria and Yugoslavia share similar views on many issues and hoped that the two countries would find increased justification in working together for the attainment of improved quality of life for their people.

In his remarks, the Yugoslav leader said his country was interested in enhancing cooperation in various fields with Nigeria. Mr Kraigher hoped that the two delegations delegates would finalize previous agreement and look into ways of opening up new avenues of cooperation. The Yugoslav leader will tomorrow lay a wreath at the Tafawa Balewa cenotaph before leaving for Calabar on a brief visit. He will return to Lagos later in the evening for the continuation of talks with his host, President Shehu Shagari.

ANGOLA

PORTUGUESE FINANCE MINISTER ARRIVES 23 MAR

AB241340 Luanda ANGOP in French 1102 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 24 Mar (ANGOP) -- Joao Salgueiro, Portuguese minister of state for finance and planning, arrived in Luanda on Tuesday at the head of an important delegation. He is to attend the second session of the Angola-Portugal joint intergovernmental committee.

In a statement to the press, the Portuguese minister indicated that the meeting he has come to attend might afford the oportunity of analyzing various aspects of cooperation between Portugal and Angola in the interests of the two peoples.

Joao Salgueiro said he is optimistic about the talks with the Angolans during the deliberations of this joint committee, while stressing that cooperation with the People's Republic of Angola represents an important aspect of Portugal's foreign policy, with respect to the African Continent.

With regard to Portugal's entry into the EEC, the minister said negotiations already are quite advanced and he expressed the hope that matters will be finalized in the near future.

The Portuguese delegation, composed also of Faris Oliveira, secretary of state for export; Leite Araujo, chairman of the supporting export fund, as well as various experts, was received on its arrival by Ismael Martins, Angola's finance minister, and the Portuguese ambassador to Angola, Fernando Silva Marques.

According to the program, the session of the joint committee will open officially this morning and this afternoon the delegates will split into working groups.

Committee Talks Open

AB242215 Luanda ANGOP in French 1820 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 24 Mar (ANGOP) -- Cooperative relations between the People's Republic of Angola and Portugal are reaching preferential status, Ismael Martins, Angolan minister of finance, said today in Luanda at the opening of the meeting of the Portuguese-Angolan joint intergovernmental committee.

Ismael Martins went on to say that this session will provide an opportunity not only to clearly define the trade areas to be intensified but also to analyze other cooperation and financial conditions for economic relations.

In conclusion, the Angolan minister called on the participants to intensify their contacts at various levels and thereby to strengthen cooperation between Portugal and Angola.

Also addressing the meeting, the Portuguese minister of state for finance and planning, Joao Salgueiro, said [words indistinct] the strengthening of the traditional ties with Angola and, he added, this meeting reflects the desire to tighten and to develop bonds of friendship and cooperation through mutual understanding and respect for the international principles of sovereignty and independence.

The Portuguese minister spoke of the world economic crisis which affects several countries, including Portugal, before going on to stress certain reasons for the immense efforts made by the People's Republic of Angola which had to divert some economic resources to cope with the systematic acts of aggression by South Africa's racist regime.

Regarding the announcement of the visit to Angola by Ramalho Ranes, Portuguese head of state, Joao Salgueiro said it will pave the way for a new stage in the strengthening of cooperation between the two states and will open up other prospects at various levels.

This afternoon, two working sessions are expected to be held by the committee of experts. The plenary session is not expected to convene until Friday, the last day of the deliberations. The Portuguese minister of state tomorrow will visit economic units in the Luanda industrial area.

JORGE MEETS WITH ANTIAPARTHEID COMMITTEE 23 MAR

AB241345 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1930 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 23 Mar (ANGOP) -- The UN ad hoc committee against apartheid, headed by Jeanne Martin, chairman of the international committee of solidarity with the struggle of women in South Africa and Namibia, who has been in Angola since Saturday, met Tuesday with Paulo Teixeira Jorge, Angolan minister of foreign affairs, and with Ruth Neto, national coordinator of the Angolan Women's Organization (OMA).

During the meetings (held separately), the discussions centered on the possibility of the UN committee aiding Cunene Province refugees, victims of the savage acts of aggression by the racist Pretoria regime.

The delegation of the UN committee against apartheid was informed of OMA activities and the assistance it gives to the refugees, especially women and children. Present at the audience were Venancio Moura, deputy minister for foreign affairs, and members of the OMA National Secretariat.

It will be recalled that the delegation on Sunday went to Huila where it visited a Cunene refugee camp within the framework of the preparations for the international conference on "Women and Apartheid" which is scheduled to take place from 17 to 19 May in Brussels.

Meeting With SWAPO Leaders

AB241310 Luanda ANGOP in French 1040 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Luanda, 24 Mar (ANGOP) -- The UN ad hoc committee against apartheid, led by Jeanne Martin Cisse, met Tuesday afternoon in Luanda with SWAPO leaders.

During this meeting, the two parties discussed issues relating to Namibia as well as the question of Namibian refugees in Angola and other frontline countries.

PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS RECEIVES AMBASSADORS

EA250300 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, received a personal message from Todor Zhivkov, president of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The message from the Bulgarian head of state was handed to Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos by that country's ambassador to Angola, Boyan Yordanov, during a ceremony held yesterday at the Futungo de Belas in Luanda.

Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos also yesterday received, in seperate audiences, USSR Ambassador Vadim Loginov and Cape Verdean Ambassador Pedro Silva. During the audience, Pedro Silva, who yesterday ended his diplomatic tour of duty of about 6 years in our country, said goodbye to the Angolan head of state.

PARTY OFFICIALS LEAVE FOR HANOI CONGRESS

AB231415 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee for ideological affairs, Comrade Ambrosio (Lukoki), left Luanda for Hanoi, capital of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, to participate in the Fifth National Congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party scheduled from the 27th to the 30th of this month. Accompanying Comrade (Lukoki) is Comrade Manuel Francisco Tuta, a member of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party.

COMPANIES SIGN OIL SHARING AGREEMENT 22 MAR

AB232104 Luanda ANGOP in French 1957 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 23 Mar (ANGOP) -- The Angolan National Fuel Company [Sonangol] and the Agip Oil Company yesterday in Luanda signed an agreement providing for the sharing of the oil from the Soyo exploration zone 1. Sonangol was represented by its director general, Herminio Escorio, while Agip was represented by its managing director for Africa, Mr Buscarell. Meanwhile, the financing group includes the following companies: ELF, Petrogal, Inanaftagaz and Inanaftaplin.

Under the agreement, the project is expected to start next May and sinking of the first well is expected in December. It was learned that the agreement will last 5 years.

In addition to the Cabinda zone, offshore zones 2, 3, 6 and 9 where Texaco, ELF, Total and Cities Service are engaged, are now fully operational.

LESOTHO

'VIOLENT EXCHANGE OF FIRE' HEARD NEAR BARRACKS

AB251015 Paris AFP in French 0925 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Johannesburg, 25 Mar (AFP) -- A violent exchange of fire was heard last night near the barracks of Lesotho's paramilitary police force in Maseru, accordingly to the South African Broadcasting Corporation [SABC].

The SABC said many residents of the area heard shooting, apparently between the paramilitary police and attackers near the Caledon River. This small river forms the border between the small Kingdom of Lesotho and the South African province of Orange Free State. The Basuto authorities have not as yet reacted to this attack, the SABC added.

On 11 March this year, the same Lesotho paramilitary police barracks came under a mortar attack and, 4 days later, unknown persons attacked a police station near Peka bridge, 60 km north of Maseru.

Although no one has claimed responsibility, these attacks appear to be the work of the Lesotho Liberation Army, the military branch of the external faction of the Ntsu Mokhele's Basutoland Congress Party.